

## Mr Sadat returns home with no concessions from Israel

President Sadat flew home from Israel yesterday to a hero's welcome in Cairo with cheering crowds thronging the streets. To the end of his two days' visit he had continued to express friendship towards the Israeli people and their leaders; but in public at least he had been offered no substantial concession in return for his brave initiative. The Israeli Government is

now expected to come under heavy pressure from Washington to reciprocate with an open-handed gesture. With the exceptions of Sudan, Morocco and Oman, the Arab world continued its bitter criticism of Mr Sadat's visit. But high Egyptian officials feel that Arab antipathy has been less fierce than after the 1975 Sinai agreement

### Determination that war will not be used to solve problems

From Edward Mortimer  
Jerusalem, Nov 21

President Sadat left Israel this afternoon after his historic two-day visit with the words "Thanks for everything".

In fact, as far as could be ascertained, he had obtained no substantial concession from the Israeli Government. Disagreement both on the issue of Israel's borders and on the acceptability of a Palestinian state was freely admitted by both sides to be unresolved.

But Mr Sadat refused to show the slightest hint of resentment or disappointment about this or to swerve from his declared objective of breaking down the "psychological barriers" which in his view constitute 70 per cent of the Arab-Israeli problem. In a series of meetings during the morning with the different groups in the Knesset, in a joint press conference with Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, and in departure ceremonies at Ben Gurion airport this afternoon, he continued to make gestures of friendship and good will towards the Israeli people and their leaders which a week ago would have seemed scarcely imaginable.

In all the meetings, Mr Sadat emphasised two points: his willingness to ensure the full security of Israel by whatever means Israel wanted, other than the continued occupation of Arab territory; and his determination that henceforth there should be no solving problems through war. The October War should be the last.

At the press conference he said repeatedly how touched he had been by the welcome of the Israeli public, and particularly of the children. He ended by expressing "all best wishes for

my friend Premier Begin and his family, and my deep gratitude to all the Israeli people, whose welcome I shall never forget".

The only formal respite of the visit was an agreed statement, read out by Mr Begin. It consisted of a single, lengthy sentence: "In response to the sincere and courageous move by President Sadat, and believing in the need to continue a dialogue along the lines proposed by both sides during their exchanges and their presentation of their positions in the historic meeting in Jerusalem, and in order to enhance the prospects of a fruitful conclusion of this significant visit, the Government of Israel, expressing the will of the people of Israel, proposes that this hopeful step be further pursued through dialogue between the two parties concerned, thereby paving the way towards successful negotiations leading to the signing of peace treaties in Geneva with all the neighbouring Arab states".

Formally this remains a simple proposal of the Israeli Government (the Egyptian Government's official response is not indicated), and neither leader was willing to be very explicit on what form the next stage of the "dialogue" might take or how soon the Geneva peace conference might be reconvened.

The invitation to Mr Begin to pay a return visit to Cairo, which the Israelis had been hoping for, did not materialise. Mr Begin did "mention" the reasons why at this stage such an invitation was not issued. Mr Sadat said: "After I was invited here and after I addressed the Knesset and the



Mrs Golda Meir gives President Sadat a present at his meeting with Knesset members in Jerusalem yesterday.

Israelis people through the Knesset, the Prime Minister has the full right to come and address our Parliament there in Cairo. But for certain reasons that we discussed together, we postponed this issue."

Neither leader explained what the "certain reasons" were, but one may surmise that Mr Sadat thinks Arab public opinion has been given enough to digest for the time being, and that a Begin visit would become appropriate only when there is some further substantial progress.

During the press conference Mr Begin was at pains to set the record straight about his

speech in the Knesset yesterday, which in the version given in simultaneous English translation (and printed in the *Jerusalem Post* this morning) appeared to omit any reference to the Palestinian problem. The official translation now available shows that Mr Begin did in fact "invite genuine spokesmen of the Arabs of the land of Israel to come and hold talks with us about our common future to ensure human liberation, social justice, peace and mutual respect".

Mr Begin explained further that in his view the word "Palestinians" was simply a translation of the Hebrew word "Eretz Yisrael" (the land of Israel). "In this country", he said, "there are two nationalities: Palestinian Jews and Palestinian Arabs. We do not think that they are the same. I spoke about 'Arabs of Eretz Yisrael', that is Palestinian Arabs. It is a problem, and we put forward proposals for solving it."

Geneva talks: The Middle East News Agency, in Cairo, quoting the spokesman who accompanied President Sadat to Israel, said today: "The purpose of the visit was to make final preparations for the Geneva conference and this has been completed."

### Mr Steel is facing party revolt on pact

By Fred Emery  
Political Editor

A Liberal revolt is likely against the refusal of Mr Steel, the party leader, to make the way European assembly elections are held an issue of breaking with the Government. Last night Mr Steel repeated in a Granada Television interview that the pact with Labour would continue even if there was no parliamentary majority for the proportional representation system Liberals crave.

But a serious party clash is looming. Liberal MPs agree, with the almost certain passage next Saturday of a Liberal council resolution calling for a "special", or emergency, session of the Liberal Assembly to consider the future of the pact with Mr Callaghan.

The party's special meeting at Derby will vote on a resolution moved by Mr Ali Khan, the party's president-elect, calling for a special assembly "if the House of Commons fails to pass the regional list system for direct elections to the European assembly as a result of the failure of a substantial majority of Labour MPs to support it".

In that eventuality senior Liberals concede that the special assembly would be most likely to vote to end the pact, and that Mr Steel could hardly resist. Indeed, it is said that some of the 13 Liberal MPs would then doubtless join their colleague, Mr Cyril Smith, MP for Rochdale, in calling for the immediate abandonment of the pact.

The Commons votes to decide between the regional list system, as proposed by the Government, and the traditional first-past-the-post system in single-member constituencies are likely to be in about a fortnight's time.

The European Assembly Elections Bill is to be given its second reading this Thursday, but the Government's business managers have not yet made clear their future plans. It is not thought, however, that they will press for a guillotine motion, limiting debate until the Commons has decided on the method of election. It is committee stage that should come most immediately.

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## HOME NEWS

## Right wing badly beaten in effort to call secret ballot for key jobs in biggest Civil Service union

From Christopher Thomas  
Southport

A resounding victory by left-wingers in the Civil and Public Services Association (CPSA), biggest of the Civil Service unions, yesterday ended a right-wing attempt to introduce secret voting for elections to key posts.

The proposal was defeated on a block vote by 116,094 to 94,793 at a rules revision conference at Southport. The 21,301 majority surprised the right, which was never confident of winning but did not expect such a severe defeat. It appeared that many moderates had voted against secret ballots.

The right promptly issued a call for a fresh inquiry concerning the entry of extremists into the Civil Service to update the Radcliffe commission's report, in 1963, which led to the banning of communists and fascists from security sensitive government departments.

Mrs Kate Losinska, a CPSA vice-president and the right-wing's contender for the presidency next year, said extremists other than communists were working in sensitive government departments and the Radcliffe report was hopelessly out of date.

The CPSA's right-wing national executive proposed secret balloting for the election

of the president, two vice-presidents and the 26 executive members.

The principle of postal balloting was endorsed in a national consultative referendum last month by 74,640 votes to 22,566.

Mr Peter Colman, communist chairman of the CPSA's broad left group, said he was elated by the vote. The active participation of members in branch meetings was the right and proper manner of conducting union business.

Mr Kenneth Thomas, CPSA general secretary, said: "Having got this out of our system, the members will want to pursue the main issues concerning the union, such as pay, the future of the Civil Service and the future of the public sector."

The battle to change the rule began after the left had seized control of the national executive a few years ago. When the new right-dominated executive took over in May it scrapped the previous proposals and drew up its own plans for constitutional changes.

The rules revision conference ends today. A conference begins tomorrow to propose a replacement association's fighting fund, which has been decimated by two costly strikes including the prolonged stoppage by air traffic control assistants.

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## Real value of teachers' pay 'down by more than quarter'

By Diana Gleddes

State policy has turned us into a nation of strikers, according to Mr Enoch Powell, MP. "Nowadays we are all strikers, high or low: doctor, fireman, teacher, taxman", he said at Watford yesterday.

"It used to be 'tinker, tailor, it will soon be 'soldier, sailor'", he told Watford Manufacturers' Association.

The state provoked strikes, he said, by attempting to use control and limitation of the price of labour as the means to achieve ulterior economic ends which a certain economic theory had suggested could best, or exclusively, be achieved in that way.

### No action on club

The Director of Public Prosecutions has advised that no action should be taken after police inquiries into the running of East Leeds Labour Club.

Schoolteachers are earning on average less than three quarters of the real value of their salaries three years ago, Mr Andrew Hutchings, general secretary of the Assistant Masters' Association, said yesterday. Senior teachers earn up to 42 per cent less in real terms than in 1974.

Mr Hutchings called for an independent committee of inquiry into teachers' pay, along the lines of the Houghton committee, which reported in 1975. The effects of the recommendation made by that committee had now been largely eroded, he said, particularly those on pay differentials between junior and senior Teachers.

The latest issue of the association's journal contains a table of changes in teachers' salaries between April 1974, when the Houghton award came into effect, and April this year. It shows that to

keep pace with inflation, salaries would need to have risen by 71 per cent, whereas in fact increases have ranged from 29 per cent for the most senior teachers to 61 per cent for young teachers on the minimum scale.

A senior teacher who was earning £4,977 in April 1974, would now need to earn £8,511 to enjoy the same standard of living. In fact the present salary is £6,441. However, teachers on the lowest level, who were earning £1,673 three years ago and now receive £2,687, would be earning less than £200 more if their salaries had remained at their real value.

Mr Hutchings said he wanted an assurance from the management side of the Birmingham Committee, the national negotiating body for teachers' pay, that teachers would get back to the pattern of salary differentials laid down by the Houghton committee.

Asked if the TUC would in any case intervene, he added: "We have been discussing the matter to see if there is any way of resolving it, but you do not barge in when you are the fifth wheel in the coach."

Mr Parry reacted strongly

## Yorkshire miners threaten action against local deals

By Robert Kershaw

The Yorkshire miners' fight against local incentive bonus deals intensified yesterday as the Yorkshire Miners' Council of the National Union of Mineworkers instructed its officials to prevent breaches of a national decision not to countenance such schemes.

Mr Arthur Scargill, the Yorkshire miners' president, said after a meeting at Barnsley: "We have gone on record opposing any demand of the national executive committee to allow any area to introduce area schemes. We have demanded that the NEC acts in accordance with the annual conference decision and the overwhelming decision in the individual ballot.

## Inquiry on £12m hospital after royal opening

An inquiry is to be held into alleged shortcomings at Barnsley's new £12m general hospital, which is due to be opened officially by Princess Alexandra on Thursday. Bassetlaw Area Health Authority has asked Trent Regional Health Authority to hold an inquiry, which will start on Monday.

The investigation will be conducted by Mr Frank Walters, vice-chairman of Trent Regional Health Authority; Professor James Scott, regional medical officer; and Mr Maurice Naylor, regional administrator. It has the support of the Department of Health and Social Security.

Senior surgeons at the hospital have complained of inability to operate because they

## Mr Rees sticks to his guns on fire pay

By Hugh Noyes  
and Donald Macintyre

Exchanges in the Commons yesterday showed that the Fire Brigades Union and the Government were as far apart as ever.

In a statement to MPs, Mr Rees, Home Secretary, said that even if the firemen were prepared to negotiate on their demand for a pay increase of 30 per cent his discussions showed that they were not talking of a guideline. An acceptable offer would "drive a coach and horses through the Government's pay policy".

The only glimmer of hope was Mr Rees's insistence that there was some flexibility in the Government's position and that negotiations should continue.

But he seemed to be flexible only in the extent that the Government's present guidelines on rises allowed.

He came under pressure from his own benches, with Mr Joseph Ashton (Bassetlaw) telling him that the Government seemed to be trying to run a voluntary income policy without any volunteers.

On the question of equipment in fire stations not being available to the substantive firemen, Mr Rees said that most of it was too complex to be used by untrained men and that some would be unsafe for them to use.

Members of the executive of the FBU had made clear to him that they wanted a big pay increase immediately. They would continue on the long-term basis of a reduction in hours and a pay freeze, but there was no basis yet on which the union would be prepared to end the strike.

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, will report on the strike to the general council tomorrow, but there are no immediate plans for direct TUC intervention.

Mr Murray discussed the dispute briefly with the Prime Minister after yesterday's meeting of the TUC-Labour Party liaison committee. He said later that he had been keeping in close touch with Mr Peter Colman, general secretary of the Fire Brigades Union, but that there had been no request from the FBU for assistance.

Asked if the TUC would in any case intervene, he added: "We have been discussing the matter to see if there is any way of resolving it, but you do not barge in when you are the fifth wheel in the coach."

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An effigy of the Home Secretary displayed by strikers outside Dowgate fire station in the City of London.

## 'Bloody battle' feared for power men's 30%

Power workers' leaders are working towards a 30 per cent pay claim for 95,000 men in the electricity and generating industry. This figure is emerging after Mr Frank Chapple's warning of a "catastrophic stoppage" next spring unless the Cabinet relaxes its wage guidelines.

Mr Chapple, general secretary of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union, said yesterday: "I cannot see how we can achieve their aspirations without an awful bloody battle."

His warning came on the eve of the Prime Minister's visit to the electricians' conference. He said Mr Callaghan would have the comfort of knowing that the electricians "will not deliberately do anything to cause his defeat", but added: "That is dependent on his not being inflexible."

But Mr Tom Breakell, in his presidential address to the conference, said inflation was "public enemy number one" and inflationary pay claims might bring fascism.

There are people who want to see changes in the structure of our society, he told the 600 delegates. Some believe that inflation is a sure way of bringing down a society they want to change."

Vote for EEC: The electricians' union, whose members once

candidates standing in direct elections to the European Parliament. That is believed to be the first such political breakthrough in the Labour movement.

On a show of hands, delegates rejected a left-wing move to put pressure on the Government to withdraw from the EEC "before the democratic rights of the British Parliament to control its own affairs are removed by direct elections to a European assembly."

After hearing a warning from Mr Breakell, that the United Kingdom would be totally isolated if it withdrew from the EEC, they voted instead to support a composite resolution that voiced doubts about EEC policies but recognized that Britain was now a full member of the EEC.

The resolution complained that food and commodity prices were rapidly catching up with those of Britain's European partners, while wages were not increasing at the same rate. It deplored the "artificially maintained food prices, and urged government action to end the accumulation of surplus food being sold off at cut rates on the world market, notably to the Russians."

The electricians called for Britain's negotiators to seek more holidays, higher wages and better pensions to bring Britain into line with the rest of Europe.

## Cash restraints 'will keep prisons overcrowded'

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

Financial constraints and a rising prison population ensure that serious overcrowding in prisons in England and Wales will continue, a Home Office memorandum to the House of Commons Expenditure Committee said yesterday.

Spending on new prison places is expected to fall from £17.5m in 1977-78 to £9.2m in 1980-81 and the number of places completed from 1,511 to only 164. The likely average prison population for England and Wales is expected to rise from 41,970 to 43,170 over the same period.

At a meeting of the education, arts and Home Office sub-committee of the expenditure committee yesterday officials were asked about the conditions of prison life as a result of the squeeze.

Mr K. J. Neale, Assistant Under-Secretary of State in the Prison Department, said the de-

but conditions in many prison cells as a whole was marginal and were such that any decline was damaging and unwise.

More people would have to spend more time in their cells. There would also be a little less education and work. More money and experts' time were having to be spent on maintaining old buildings. The main effect of the squeeze would be on local prisons.

Officials said the Government was to issue a Green Paper in the new year for discussion of proposals to amalgamate the use of detention centres, hostels, and institutions for young prisoners into one sentence.

Under the proposals being discussed, Mr Neale said offenders aged between 17 and 21 would be put under a custody and control order by the courts. The prison system would decide where the young person should serve the sentence.

## Teacher who will not use belt wins appeal

Mr Denis Docherty, a Glas-

gow probationary teacher who refuses to use the belt on his pupils, has won an appeal against losing his licence to teach.

The appeals committee of the General Teaching Council for Scotland in Edinburgh decided yesterday by a majority to uphold his appeal.

Mr Docherty, aged 27, a teacher at London Secondary Academy, had his licence revoked last month after a headmaster's report that he had failed to maintain discipline in his classroom. The teaching council was recommended to withdraw his provisional registration as a teacher.

Mr James Scotland, chairman of the appeals committee, who is also chairman of the council, said the decision to uphold the appeal had been made because of new evidence. It was not seen by the probation committee which revoked Mr Docherty's licence.

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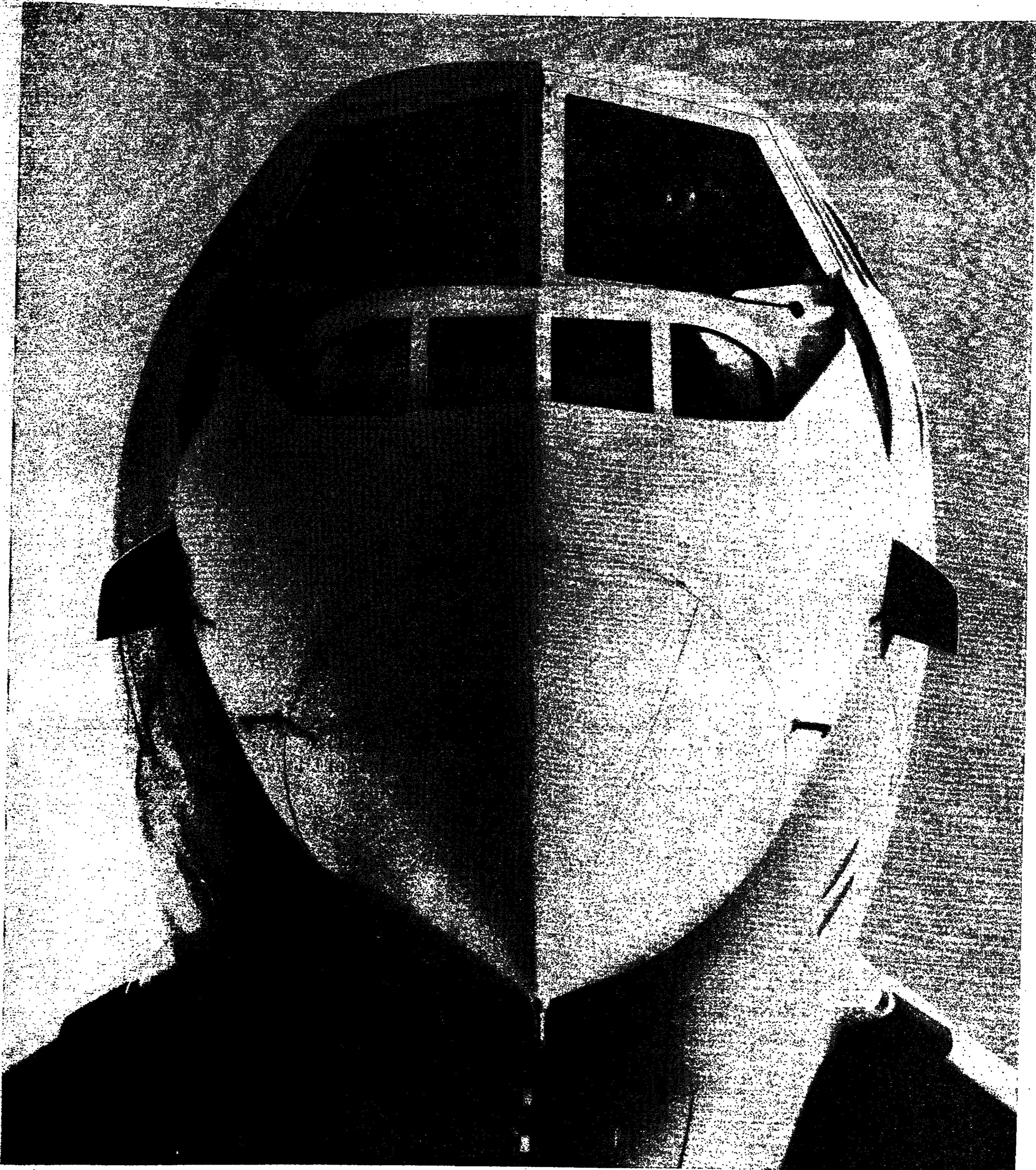
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The NUS should follow the example of Scandinavian student unions and make a positive contribution to the solution of the housing shortage by assisting in the setting up of student housing associations.



## 'Morning, New York!

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## HOME NEWS

## Police to make trials with three new breath-test devices

By Peter Evans  
Home Affairs Correspondent

The police are to try three new devices for analysing drivers' breath to determine the level of alcohol in the blood. Drivers will be invited, not compelled, to take part in the trials after going through existing procedures. The tests will be for scientific evaluation only and there is no legal provision for readings to be used in evidence.

They will begin on December 1 and continue for next six months in selected police stations in busy urban areas. They follow the recommendations of the Blennerbasset committee in April, 1976, on drinking and driving, that a breath test should replace the blood test as the main means of determining the concentration of alcohol in the blood.

That would make blood or urine samples unnecessary but leave the driver the option of providing blood if the reading was over the prescribed limit. In August, 1976, the Government accepted the committee's report but said that trials and research would be needed to find whether suitable devices were available, and to assess the costs and manpower.

The trials are to be of the Breathalyzer 1000, the Gas Chromatograph Intoximeter and the CMI Intoximeter. They have been chosen after labor-

atory tests on commercially available devices at the Home Office's central research establishment at Aldermaston.

About 500 tests will be made with each device. Police officers have been trained to operate the equipment, and the programme will be monitored by Home Office scientists.

Police forces taking part and the designated stations are:

the Metropolitan (Fulham and Hammersmith, Sussex (Brighton), South Wales (Cardiff), West Midlands (Smedmore, Birmingham); West Yorkshire Meropolitan (Leeds and Huddersfield), Strathclyde (Glasgow, Govan and Clydebank), Greater Manchester (Manchester and Stockport).

The offence of driving with blood alcohol above a prescribed limit was introduced by the Road Safety Act, 1967, and is contained in the Road Traffic Act, 1972. Under existing procedures a roadside breath test (Using the Alco test equipment) provides an indication of whether the proportion of alcohol in a person's blood exceeds the prescribed limit (50 milligrams in which the driver should be taken to a police station for further tests).

Laboratory tests of blood and urine samples taken at the police station provide a substantive result on which to base a decision to prosecute.

## Pharmacologist urges legalizing of cannabis

Professor James Graham, a leading pharmacologist, yesterday proposed the legalizing of the use of cannabis, which he described as far less harmful than tobacco or alcohol.

Professor Graham, a member of the Home Office committee into the misuse of drugs, suggested that cannabis smokers should be able to enjoy the use of the drug in their own homes. He said: "I am not suggesting it should be universally available, but people should be able to order modest amounts of cannabis from an agency for their own home use."

All available evidence dis-

counted the contention that cannabis, was a dangerous drug, he added. "Magistrates are aware of this and the number of custodial sentences for the use of cannabis is very small. The statute book should be tidied up before there is another change of mood."

Cannabis, he continued, was a mild intoxicant, without the aggressive depressive character of alcohol.

"Cannabis misuse is capable of harm like any other drug, but people tend not to smoke it like cigarettes. One or two smokes a day seem to be ample for the average user."

Hospital presentation: Mrs Callaghan (second from left) the Prime Minister's wife, Lady Hamilton and Princess Helena Moutafian watching a child being treated by Sister Mary Wallis with a Diapulse electromagnetic therapy instru-

ment at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, London. The machine is used to accelerate healing after surgery, was presented by the children's hospital League of Friends.

## Tribunal told of artificial feeding in jail

By a Staff Reporter

A prison doctor who refused to feed artificially a prisoner on hunger strike 16 months after the Government had stopped the use of force-feeding was within his rights, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

The incident took place at Leeds prison in October, 1975, where Dr M. G. Mansuri had been transferred from Brixton the previous month.

Dr Mansuri, of Upper Norwood, London, was suspended from duty in March, 1976, and dismissed from the prison medical service last April. He is alleging unfair dismissal.

Dr Ronald Ingrey-Senn, formerly senior medical officer at Leeds and now assistant director of prison medical services at the Home Office, told the tribunal in London, that Dr Mansuri had been suspended from complaints about his timekeeping and disobedience to orders.

He said he had no complaints about Dr Mansuri's clinical performance, apart from a tendency to change other doctors' treatments. Dr Mansuri had cited a Home Office circular in refusing to continue artificially feeding a patient on hunger strike.

It referred to inmates being told there was no prison rule requiring medical officers to feed them against their will, as long as their capacity for rational judgment was considered to be unimpaired.

Dr Ingrey-Senn disputed a suggestion from Mr G. S. Mansuri's counsel for Dr Mansuri that force-feeding was involved, however. Although the prisoner was on hunger strike, he said, feeding had been continuing for about six months, and the prisoner had cooperated to the extent of coming voluntarily for treatment.

He added that it was in order for Dr Mansuri to refuse the request, in accordance with his judgment, on that particular occasion.

The hearing continues today.

## Prison officer attacked

A prison officer was attacked at Aylesbury prison, Buckinghamshire on Sunday, it was disclosed yesterday. He was struck from behind while supervising tea.

## Doctor barred after drug allegations loses appeal

A doctor who was barred from practising after allegations that he supplied drugs virtually on demand failed in his application to have his name restored to the medical register yesterday.

Dr William Shinkwin, aged 58, of Cardiff, was found guilty of serious professional misconduct last year for prescribing drugs other than for bona-fide treatment.

The committee decided to take no further action in the case of a doctor convicted of growing cannabis at the hospital where he works, Dr Andrew Millar, of Carsonton Road, Saintfield, Down, first appeared before the committee a year ago, when judgment was passed.

The committee was told then that he was fined £200 at Barnstaple last year after 15 cannabis plants had been found growing in his room at North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, where he was a house officer.

The committee decided to take no further action against Dr John Owens, of All Saints Hospital, Birmingham, who was found guilty of unlawfully supplying controlled drugs last year. The committee ended its inquiry into his conduct.

Dr Shinkwin told the GHC's disciplinary committee yesterday that he had not worked for the past year and had lost his practice. He said there "was more or less an epidemic of people" pressing doctors to give them substances.

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The new Rover 2300

The new Rover 2600

The new Rover 3500 represents the most significant advance in motoring for years. It won all the 1976 and 1977 major awards for safety and design. A car in a class of its own.

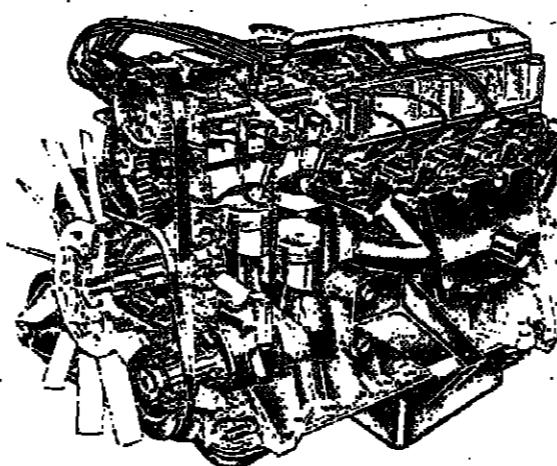
Until now.

Now, we announce its partners: the new Rover 2300 and the new Rover 2600.

And now you can enjoy the pleasures and privileges of Rover motoring at an even more reasonable price.

The new cars share the same, aerodynamic, fuel-conscious styling as the 3500. Inside, you'll find the same astounding roominess and high level of appointment.

And Rover's award-winning attention to safety is there, from overall design to smallest detail.



A new source of power.

Both the 2300 and 2600 engines feature overhead camshafts, aluminium alloy cylinder heads using a cross-flow, slant valve configuration, based on an Award winning design. The viscous-coupled cooling fan and the unique Inlet Air Temperature Control systems help to maximise the fuel economy of these quiet and efficient engines.

\*Motor magazine. Car tested 2000 manual.

The new 2300 and 2600 both have completely new 6 cylinder in-line engines, rigorously tested over hundreds of hours and thousands of miles.

These powerful engines are matched with two new gearboxes, a 5-speed manual in the 2600, a 4-speed in the 2300, with an automatic option available on both.

Power delivered with economy: in the right hands, a 2600 manual should match Motor magazine's figures of 0-60 in 9 seconds, a top speed of 117.8 mph and a touring average of 27.8 mpg\*.

The Rover 3500 opened a new world of motoring.

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See them at your Rover showroom.

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## HOME NEWS

## Many counties falling short of monetary targets set for the Queen's Silver Jubilee Appeal

By Penny Symon  
Money raised by the Queen's Silver Jubilee Appeal is not getting to many young people who, the organizers feel, would benefit greatly from it. There is also concern that people have not contributed to the appeal as expected. Most counties have so far fallen short of their targets.

The appeal council meets on Thursday, with the Prince of Wales in the chair. The main topic will be how to make contact with young people who are not part of an organized group but could make excellent use of some of the money raised. The council knows that money has gone to organizations such as youth clubs, schools, ambulance cadets and Scout and Girl Guide troops; but it recognizes that unless ways are devised to get in touch with the "non-organized young", the appeal will not achieve its object of maximum youth involvement.

The appeal was launched by the Prince of Wales last April. It was stated that half the money raised by county appeals, organized by lords lieutenant, would be returned to the county concerned, to be spent on projects with the theme of encouraging service by young people to the community.

The rest goes into a capital fund, the income from which will be used to support similar enterprises in the future. So far, £12,500,000 has been raised, half in cash and the rest pledged in covenants. About £450,000 has been given in 400 grants for projects.

Most of them have gone to youth organizations, to help the elderly and disabled, and there is also an emphasis on outdoor activities and conser-

vation. In Moray £18,500 is to be spent on an outdoor activities centre.

Elsewhere Scouts have devised nature trails, ambulance cadets have bought new equipment, young people are being taught how to ride motor cycles correctly, and one school is cultivating vegetables to help the elderly.

It was felt that local communities should choose projects worthy of support, but their attitudes have varied, depending on prejudice and the degree of their involvement with young people.

A project thought suitable in one county might well be regarded with suspicion in another. Some have decided on a particular theme, but there is criticism over apparent inconsistency.

The appeal remains open until April 30 next. The counties were given a target figure of money to raise, based on size and population. They were allowed to increase or decrease the target, but most chose to keep to the one given.

By the end of September, 21 had either reached or passed their target, and the appeal organizers hope that more will do so by the end of this month. The reasons why some have done better than others vary; more efficient organizers and a higher degree of enthusiasm from industry have been mentioned.

The appeal is having administrative difficulties in counting the money raised for it by the British Legion's house-to-house collection in May, but each county's jubilee account will eventually be credited with the amount collected locally. London's target was £1,500,000, and £500,000 has been raised, an amount

that disappoints the office of Lord Elworthy, Lord Lieutenant of Greater London. The sum of £250,000 was given by the City of London, and £100,000 by the Greater London Council.

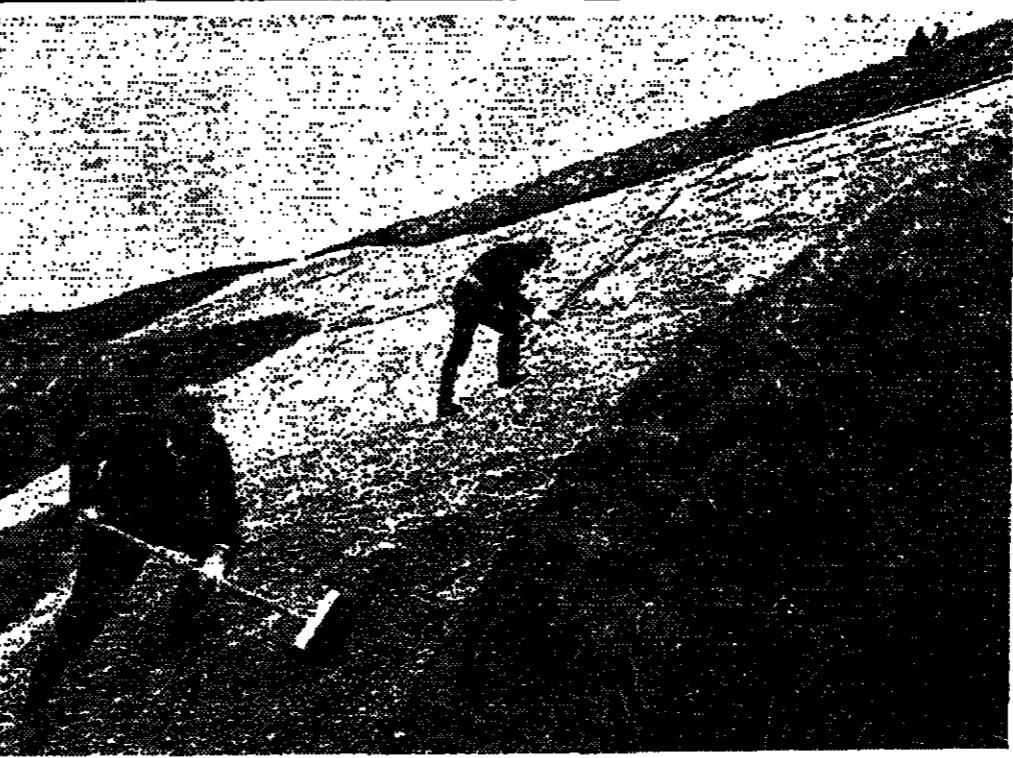
"We are very disappointed that the boroughs have only contributed £150,000 so far, and we are castigating them in the hope of shaming them", a spokesman said. "The mayors are being told to go out in the new year and visit personally all the smallish businesses in their boroughs which have not contributed and ask for jubilee money."

Among the counties that still have some way to go are the West Midlands, whose target was £350,000 and where £110,000 has been raised so far. Essex (target £170,000, raised £69,489), Salop (£45,000, £19,000), Devon (£250,000, £86,441), Surrey (£120,000, £20,000), Wiltshire (£60,000, £20,000), Bedfordshire (£60,000, £12,000), Leicestershire (£100,000, £42,000), and Lincolnshire (£62,940, £27,589).

Scotsland has raised about £600,000 from commerce and industry and £407,853 from the public, including covenants. It is hoped to increase that to £1,200,000. Wales set a target of £240,000, and has so far raised £220,000. Northern Ireland hopes for £100,000 and has got £74,232.

The counties that have passed their targets include West Sussex (target £75,000, raised £10,000), Norfolk (£80,000, £94,000), West Yorkshire (£250,000, £300,000), Isle of Wight (£15,000, £17,125).

Most counties have found it easier to raise money in the villages and smaller towns than in the cities.



Men in safety harness cleaning the Westbury White Horse on a Wiltshire hillside, ready for painting in a fortnight, a good will gesture by Bovis for Silver Jubilee Year.

### Court frees former Soho club owner

By Hugh Clayton  
Frank Saviour Miford, aged 51, who once had gaming and strip clubs, in Soho, London, was freed from a five-year jail sentence by the Court of Appeal yesterday. He was cleared of an attempt to suborn a witness.

Lord Justice Lawton, sitting with Mr Justice Gibson, quashed Mr Miford's conviction at the Central Criminal Court on August 13 last year of suborning Harold Stocker, a Soho trader, to give false evidence against two of Mr Miford's rivals at two Central Criminal Court trials in 1967.

The court allowed Mr Miford's appeal on the ground that Judge McKinnon had wrongly allowed the jury to hear inadmissible and highly prejudicial evidence against Mr Miford. It quashed his jail sentence and £50,000 fine and ruled that he should recover the costs of his appeal.

Mr Miford, who was born in Malta, was reported to have been in custody for two years before his trial. He had been extradited from Switzerland to face the perjury charge and a further charge of helping complicity in the murder 20 years ago of Tommy ("Scarface") Smithson, of which he was acquitted in March, 1976.

### Plan to end surpluses of EEC farm produce

By Hugh Clayton  
Reforms in EEC farm policy that would stop production of "mountains" of surplus food are proposed by Professor John Marsh, Professor of Agricultural Economics at Aberdeen University.

The Community fixes uniform prices for most farm produce in all member states, and guarantees payment at those prices for as much suitable produce as farmers care to sell into official stores.

Farmers would still be protected against the sharp falls in price characteristic of an unprotected market facing a surplus, Professor Marsh writes. "Less is likely to be offered for intervention and the Community will benefit from lower prices."

He suggests that, failing monetary union, the Community should fix farm prices for intra-member trade only. Where production is tends to exceed the volume agreed by the Council of Ministers, a cut in trading price is likely to be much more acceptable than a cut in prices for all producers.

A government which chooses to shield some or all of its producers could do so at its own expense."

He therefore struck directly at the fundamental principles of the common agricultural policy. His views gain authority by appearing as the first personal paper from the Centre for Agricultural Strategy at Reading University.

He writes that the policy makes Britain pay more for imported food than would otherwise be necessary. "The extra cost of imports represents a real loss of wealth and makes even more difficult the task of securing a satisfactory balance of payments."

He suggests that when the EEC buys food for storage it

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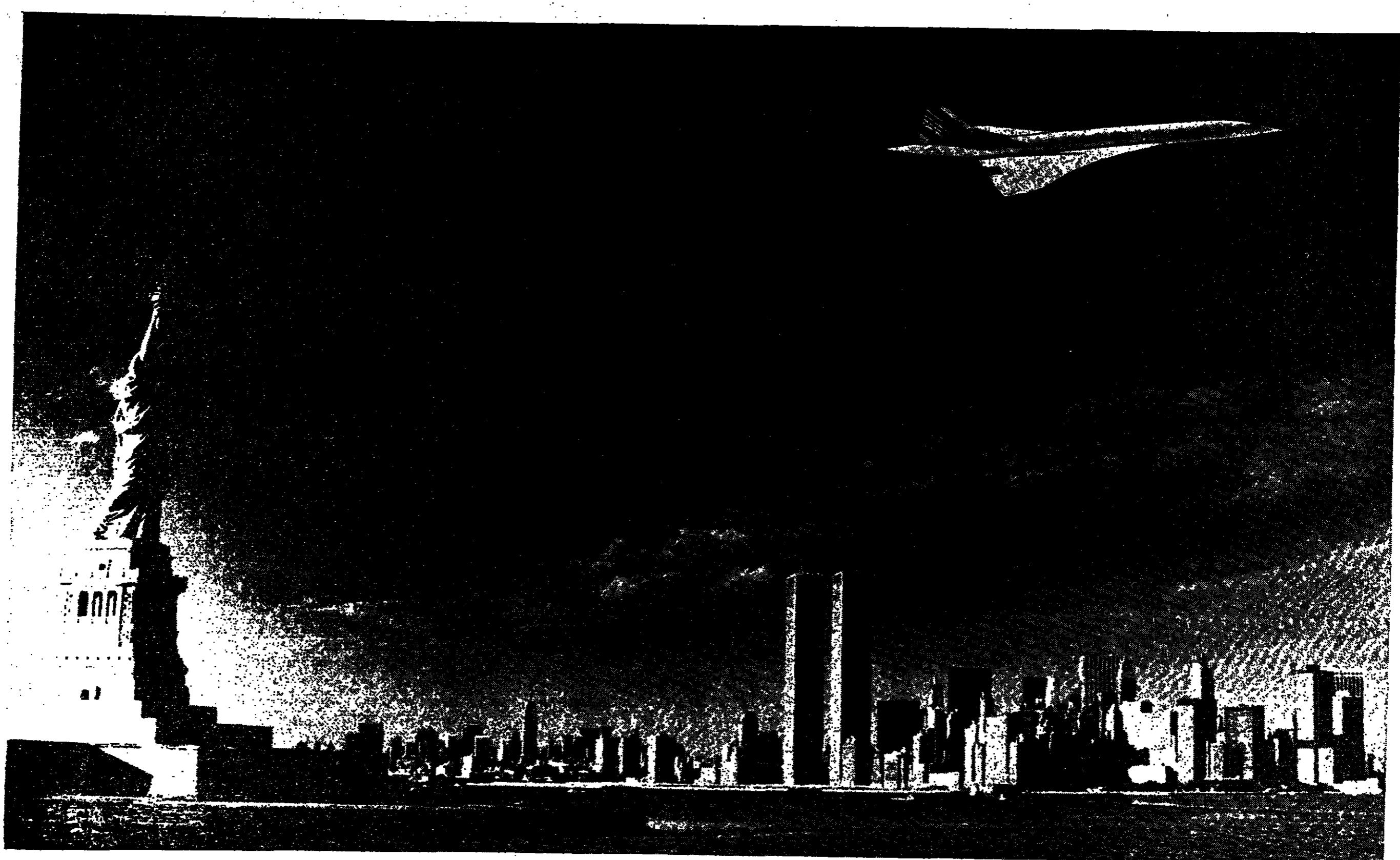
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# JPY, 15p

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Concorde today. Now we can give you a four hour Headstart on the rest of the world. The daily Concorde service between Paris and New York leaves Roissy Charles de Gaulle Airport at 11.00am and touches down at JFK Airport at 8.30am local time.

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## WEST EUROPE

**Suicide watch is kept on Baader lawyer in Stammheim prison**From Patricia Clough  
Bonn, Nov 21

Herr Cyrus Croissant, the Baader-Meinhof defence lawyer extradited last week from France, is said to be under continuous round-the-clock surveillance in Stammheim high-security jail near Stuttgart.

According to the Stuttgart judicial authorities the prison doctor "did not exclude" the possibility that Herr Croissant might attempt to kill himself. His defence deny that he has any such intention.

Intensified surveillance in other West German prisons led to five terrorist suspects going on hunger strike for a few days last week.

The close watch was mounted after three leaders of the Baader-Meinhof group were found dead in their cells in Stammheim on October 18, after the release of the Lufthansa airliner hostages and the death of a fourth. Frau Ingrid Schubert, in a Munich jail nine days ago. The official explanation of all four deaths was suicide.

Judicial sources said that at his trial—expected in January—Herr Croissant, who is 47, would be accused of acting as courier between the various between them and associates outside.

Franz Verena Becker, who went on a brief hunger strike last week, goes on trial in Stuttgart on Monday, the first such trial since the Schleyer kidnapping and Lufthansa hijacking.

She is charged with the

attempted murder of six policemen in the gun battle which led to her arrest, and with membership of a terrorist association. A man arrested with her, Herr Günter Sonnenberg, was badly injured in the fight and has been declared unfit to stand trial.

Frau Becker was arrested in 1974 after an attack on a British yacht club in West Berlin in which one person was killed. She was freed in 1975 with others in exchange for the life of Herr Peter Lorenz, the kidnapped Christian Democrat leader, and returned to West Germany.

The Hague, Nov 21.—Christoph Wackernagel, a member of the urban guerrilla group Red Army Faction detained here today denied reports that they planned to blow up Lufthansa airliners or kidnap members of the Dutch royal family in reprisal for the deaths in Stammheim prison of the Baader-Meinhof leaders.

Such false reports were being spread in Holland by West Germany security agents, he claimed.

In a statement released by his Dutch lawyer, Herr Wackernagel said the RAF wanted to warn the citizens of Europe against a new German fascism.—UPI.

Dortmund, West Germany, Nov 21.—Two high school students, aged 18 and 19, were arrested here today accused of plotting to set fire to the town hall in revenge for the prison deaths of the Baader-Meinhof leaders.—AP.

**Anti-nuclear group admits bomb attacks**From Ian Murray  
Paris, Nov 21

An organization calling itself the "Carlos Committee" has claimed responsibility for some of the bombs, fire and machine gun attacks which occurred in many parts of France over the weekend.

In a statement read over the telephone to the Bordeaux office of Agence France Presse, the organization said that it was "unavoidable that acts of sabotage would intensify."

Despite its acronym, the "Carlos Committee" claims no terrorist pedigree. Its name stands for "Coordination Autonome des Revoltes en Lutte Ouverte contre la Societe (independent group of rebels in open fight against society)" and it is opposed to the development of nuclear energy in France.

**Madeira air crash theory**

Funchal, Madeira, Nov 21.—The pilot of a Boeing belonging to TAP, the Portuguese airline, which crashed at Funchal airport on Saturday, landed too far down the runway to stop in time, an airline official said.

Captain Manuel Norton, the maintenance director of TAP, disclosed also that the newly-promoted pilot was making only his second landing at Funchal as captain although he had flown to the Atlantic holiday isle regularly as a co-pilot.

**Signor Andreotti pleased with Canadian visit**

Rome, Nov 21.—Signor Andreotti, the Italian Prime Minister, returns to Rome from Montreal today after a five-day official visit to Canada during which he discussed economic relations with Mr Trudeau, the Prime Minister, and other Canadian Government officials.

Signor Andreotti voiced satisfaction over a technical agreement reached during his visit to Canada. The agreement was removed as another obstacle to the sale of nuclear reactor technology to Italy.

"In addition to the technical agreement," he said in an airport statement, "we had very interesting discussions on Italian-Canadian collaboration regarding alternative sources of energy."—AP.

**White Burgundy goes up more than red**

From Our Own Correspondent  
Paris, Nov 21

The 117th annual auction of wines of the Hospices de Beaune over the weekend saw a sharp increase in the going price for white wines compared with last year. The reds increased in price only moderately, however.

The 586 lots were sold for a total of £6,644 francs (£581.725), which goes to the running costs of the hospices. The average price for all the wine sold, both reds and whites, was 11,087 francs (£1,304) for a 228-litre (50-gallon) barrel.

The highest price was paid for a barrel of Corton Rouge (Docteur Peste), which fetched a record price of 33,900 francs—about £17.50 a litre.

**Delegates see UFO film**

From Our Own Correspondent  
New York, Nov 21

Members of the United Nations special political committee enjoyed a brief visit at the weekend to the new hit film, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*.

The film, which has been enthusiastically received by critics, is about fictional visitors from outer space and their effect on a community. Whether it contains any information which will be of use to the committee is a moot point. But it should put them in a good mood for the discussion, and tickets were much sought after.

Minister, Mr Eric Gaïry, takes a keen interest in this and other aspects of the occult. He devoted much of his speech in the General Assembly last month to the question, and had it placed on the agenda of the Assembly and of his committee.

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Delegates to the conference

had been invited to see the film.

Mr Gaïry, who is a member of the committee, said that the film had been chosen because it deals with the question of extraterrestrial life.

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## OVERSEAS

**Mrs Gandhi denounces inquiry into excesses during emergency rule**From Richard Wigg  
Delhi, Nov 21

Mrs Gandhi, the former Prime Minister, today asserted cabinet responsibility.

Mrs Gandhi even claimed that her style of governing during the emergency, which is accepted generally as authoritarian, was "in marked contrast" to that of the Wilson Government as described by Richard Crossman, the former Minister, in his diaries.

Instead of appearing personally as requested, she sent through a lawyer a 17-page statement which accused the commission of indulging in "character assassination" being politically motivated, and defying some of the rules laid down for such a commission to aid the Constitution.

Her reputation, she said, had been "irreparably damaged" by the procedures already adopted. Under article 21 of the Constitution her reputation was a part of her personal liberty.

Mrs Gandhi also said that the commission, under Mr Justice Shah, which was appointed in March by the Janata Air Force to look into alleged excesses during the 20-month long emergency, had created a precedent for "politically inspired inquisitorial proceedings".

She thought it would be impossible for democratically elected governments to function effectively in future if they had to live under the fear of such investigations into their policies and decisions by a subsequent government.

Her statement, which was read out, was a blend of close legal reasoning and a renewed political defiance of her administration and attack on the present Government.

She rebuked those among her former ministers who had given evidence before the one-man commission. Citing English constitutional authorities like Sir Ivor Jennings, Mrs Gandhi defended several controversial appointments made under the exercise of the

**Japanese to extract uranium from sea**From Peter Hazellhurst  
Tokyo, Nov 21

Deprived of indigenous resources and threatened by a predicted energy crisis during the next two decades, the Japanese are planning to construct a unique plant designed to extract minute quantities of uranium from sea water.

The plan was mooted early this year after successful experiments by Japanese scientists indicated that 3.3 million grams of uranium can be extracted from one ton of sea water. According to their projections an estimated 4,200 million tons of uranium are suspended in minute quantities in the world's oceans.

Put simply, uranium can be separated from sea water by titanic acid as currents pass through special nets laid along selected areas of the coast. The residue is then refined by floatation and ion exchange to produce uranium oxide.

While the initial experiments have proved successful, scientists in Tokyo admit there are formidable obstacles to be overcome before the procedure is adapted for commercial use.

Under the initial plans of the Ministry for International Trade and Industry, the Government intends to construct the first commercial plant by 1991. It is designed to extract 1,000 tons of uranium a year from the sea.

The cost of uranium extracted from the sea is expected to equal the price of mined uranium when the plant is completed in 10 years. It is expected to provide Japan with 5 per cent of its future requirements.

"The major problem is space," Mr Kusuke Yamamoto of the Atomic Energy Research Division, points out. "A plant capable of extracting

**Refugees reach land**

Darwin, Nov 21.—Six more Indo-Chinese refugee boats with a total of 218 people on board have arrived here. It was the largest single group of refugees to reach Australia in more than two years of voyages from Thailand and Vietnam.

**Wesker play on Shylock has brief Broadway run**From Our Own Correspondent  
New York, Nov 21

Arnold Wesker's new play, *The Merchant*, has closed after only four performances on Broadway.

The reworking of *The Merchant of Venice* to present Shylock in a heroic light received generally poor reviews after it opened last Wednesday. Critics said it was too wordy, with little dramatic action.

Wesker's argument is that Shylock was, in fact, a close friend of Antonio, and entered into the pound-of-flesh bond only at Antonio's insistence, because Venetian law demanded that any loan from a Jew be covered by a binding contract.

The insertion of the fatal penalty clause was Shylock's idea, to point up the absurdity of the law as it was then.

They called it a "nonsense bond", designed partly as a protest against the confined ghetto conditions in which Jews in Venice were forced to live.

**Productivity bonuses find support in China**

Prime Minister's "overall control" was asserted cabinet responsibility.

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Mrs Gandhi also said that the commission, under Mr Justice Shah, which was appointed in March by the Janata Air Force to look into alleged excesses during the 20-month long emergency, had created a precedent for "politically inspired inquisitorial proceedings".

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She rebuked those among her former ministers who had given evidence before the one-man commission. Citing English constitutional authorities like Sir Ivor Jennings, Mrs Gandhi defended several controversial appointments made under the exercise of the

General de Gaulle armament himself with extra powers under the Fifth Republic's constitution to justify her response to unrest by declaring the emergency in June 1975.

Mrs Gandhi said that although she felt no specific purpose would be served by taking part in the present proceedings, she would accept a summons to appear as a witness the commission "decides to hold the inquiry in accordance with the law".

Mrs Gandhi's most telling point, perhaps, was to argue that if the present proceedings were intended to be only a preliminary to establish whether there were excesses, with subsequent stage to establish individual responsibility, such a preliminary inquiry should not have been conducted "under the full glare of publicity".

Mr Justice Shah gave an assurance that, when the commission came to the second stage, he would give all concerned full opportunity to explain their conduct, have legal advice, produce evidence in their defence, and cross-examine other witnesses.

First, however, he had to establish whether the declaration of the 1975 emergency was in itself an excess, he said.

The newspaper described the recent theoretical discussion on extra payments as "heated" and pointed out that no one in China dated to touch the question in recent years.

Reuter.

The state of the economy is a big problem and the country must decide how to increase workers' productivity and how to acknowledge skill.

The wage system based on the number of hours and piece-work payments also received the approval of the economists, but with some limitations.

Publication of the article was seen as a call for national debate on payments for workers. Its appearance in the *Guangming Daily*, a paper aimed at intellectuals, was also taken as a sign that the Chinese leaders may be thinking on similar lines as they plan the so-called four modernizations in agriculture, industry, science and technology and defence.

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Publication



## SPORT

Football

## FA urge discussion in Parliament over programme on hooliganism

By Norman Fox

Football Correspondent

Last week's *Panorama* programme dealing with football hooliganism was further criticised yesterday after a meeting of a Football Association council in London. The FA claim that the film, backed by a group of Millwall supporters, gave "further encouragement" to the social unrest. They argue to make a strong representation to the BBC and they hope that there will be parliamentary discussions.

Council members said they were "shocked" at reports that some £10,000 of costs of the programme were to be paid for appearing in the film. It was also criticised last week by the minister for Sport, Denis Howell, who said it was "the most irresponsible programme ever seen on television for a long time."

The full statement from Lancaster Gate reads: "At a meeting of the Football Association Council yesterday afternoon, after a meeting of the Football Association-Football League joint liaison committee, it was decided to make a strong representation to the BBC about the programme, which was shown on Monday November 14, concerning hooliganism."

"The Football Association council can only give further encouragement to the social unrest and it is all the more shocked to hear the allegations that the BBC is paying money to certain participants who provided the material for the programme. The Football Association urges a discussion in Parliament about this matter."

Sir James Sturz, an assistant to the former Metropolitan Police commissioner, Sir Robert Mark, is to be the FA's spokesman to help negotiate crowd control. A member of the council explained that in the past the FA had sometimes acted after the event but they hoped that Sir James would help with proposals for preventative measures.

The programme, which the Millwall club director said was "grossly exaggerated", may not have been correctly balanced but from the evidence given by the Metropolitan Police show that hooliganism has increased disturbingly. In the past seven years the cases of hooliganism dealt with by the police at London football grounds have more than doubled, although attendances have dropped by over 387,000.

## Macdonald fined £100 by FA

Malcolm Macdonald's gesture to

a line-up during a friendly

against Norwich in September has cost the Arsenal striker £100. The fine plus costs was imposed by an FA Disciplinary Commission in London yesterday after they had seen film of the match in which the Northumbrian keeper, Kevin Keelan, defected alongside a series of findings and the East Anglian side 1-0. Macdonald was charged with bringing the game into disrepute. A disciplinary hearing was also closed at West Ham following an incident in August when a spectator ran on to the pitch and struck Manchester City defender Willie Donachie.

"We explained our police and

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stewards' arrangements and they were satisfied. I had all the reasonable precautions."

One policeman remains for the Spanish club if they sign Hudson. Arsenal expect to complete the near £200,000 transfer of their former England forward, Alan Hudson, to the Spanish club, Alaves, in the winter. The Northumbrian keeper, Kevin Keelan, defected alongside a series of findings and the East Anglian side 1-0. Macdonald was charged with bringing the game into disrepute. A disciplinary hearing was also closed at West Ham following an incident in August when a spectator ran on to the pitch and struck Manchester City defender Willie Donachie.

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Law Report November 21 1977

## Court of Appeal

## Has Domestic Violence Act gone wrong?

**Davis v Johnson**  
Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Sir George Baker, President of the Family Division, Lord Justice Goff, Lord Justice Shaw and Lord Justice Cumming Bruce.

The five-member Court of Appeal which hears the hearing of the appeal which raises questions on the scope and construction of the Domestic Violence (Protection of the Household) Proceedings Act, 1976.

Miss Jennifer Theresa Davis, joint tenant of council premises in Hackney with Mr Peter Neilson Johnson, father of her two-year-old child, is appealing from Judge Bernard Lewis who at Borehamwood County Court ruled that an order of the court, made by the deputy judge, Paulus, the part-time master, Mr Johnson to vacate the premises and not return thereto.

Mr Johnson is now in the house, which Miss Davis and the baby are living in the battered wives' home at Chelmsford.

Section 1 of the Act provides:

"(1) Without prejudice to the jurisdiction of any court, an application by a party to a marriage a county court shall have jurisdiction to grant an injunction containing one or more of the following provisions, namely—

(a) a provision restraining the other party to the marriage from molesting the applicant; (b) a provision restraining the other party from molesting the applicant, living with the applicant; (c) a provision excluding the other party from the matrimonial home or a part of the matrimonial home for a specified period while the matrimonial home is included; (d) whether or not any other relief is sought in the proceedings.

(2) Subsection (1) above shall apply to a married couple who are living with each other in the same household as husband and wife if it applies to the parties to a marriage and any reference to the matrimonial home shall be construed accordingly."

Mr Joseph Jackson, QC, for Mr Johnson, submitted that the Court of Appeal was bound by two previous Court of Appeal decisions—*B v B* (The Times, October 14) and *C v J* (The Times, October 14)—and that even if it were not so bound it should follow those decisions even though saying that it

would have come to a different conclusion if the matter had first come before it. Indeed, it would be unseemly and undesirable for the court to take a different view. But with six Lords Justices, the five counsel commanded that the two October decisions were right.

If there had been an error in interpretation, it could be corrected by the House of Lords.

He understood that an appeal might be heard before Christmas, might be more likely. The winter months, however, some county courts might be following suit. Court of Appeal decision and others another.

The Master of the Rolls: I think everyone would follow this court's decision. I would expect them to.

The President: What would be the position if the court did not follow previous decisions of this court and was based on a mis-understanding of the Family Division which had been given a

without paying any attention whatever to property rights in

*Basset v Basset* (1975) Fam 76?

Mr Jackson replied that *Basset* and other similar cases had nothing to do with the present one because they were in matrimonial matters pending suit. There had been jurisdiction for a long time, in many cases, cases with and without the House of Lord's approval, had deprived a property owner of the right to remain in the matrimonial home before 1976. Act one had to do with a matrimonial cause before one could eject a property owner from his home.

Lord Justice Shaw: For the last 15 to 20 years those living together—some of them coming from good homes—have often been the most respectable families, in the old sense of the word. Is not the tendency now to introduce the concept that people should have the same consideration as those married? Such people often share the same responsibilities for children as married couples do.

In the hearing of the Act Parliament had been extremely careful not to erode the rights of property of spouses except in

specific cases referred to and it was not proper for the court to do so. Parliament had made all sorts of provisions to deal with the property situation as between spouses in the matrimonial code. Counsel said that one of the dreadful things said about the Act was that it was supposed to have promised much and to have given so little. If Parliament was going to give rights to the parties it should have done so boldly and unequivocally so that everyone knew what they were.

Lord Justice Shaw: It may be that when you consider the property rights of spouses you should recognize the higher status of the married couple: but when you come to violence there is no distinction, so far as I can see, under which why the Act did not go so far as it should have done.

Counsel said that he felt driven to submit that on the facts of *Basset* (1975) 1st man and woman who are living with each other in the same household as husband and wife (the wife had to be living together with the other spouse) application to the county court. He himself would have used words meaning "those who cohabit."

Lord Justice Goff: But in the word "husband" it means it gives the lady no protection once she has been driven out and tells the police "I have just stopped living with this man who has tried to do me damage." But the Act does not say that.

Counsel said that the subsection was most unsatisfactory.

The Master of the Rolls: Are we to say to Parliament: "You have got a mess of it. We are not going to interpret it like that."

Lord Justice Goff: But if there are two possible constructions, and one is more reasonable than the other, then it is for Parliament to decide which makes sense, we are bound to choose the latter.

The hearing was adjourned.

## No capital allowances on cost of oil rig loans

**Ben-Odeco Ltd v Powlson (Inspector of Taxes)**  
Before Mr Justice Brightman  
(Judgment delivered November 18)

Payments of interest and commitment fees of £100,000 incurred to obtain essential plant and machinery to construct an oil drilling rig were not expenditure "on the provision of machinery or plant" and thus could not qualify for first-year allowances under section 41 of the Finance Act, 1971.

His Lordship dismissed an appeal by Ben-Odeco Ltd from a decision of the commissioners of Inland Revenue who had upheld an assessment to corporation tax for the accounting period to December 31, 1971, of £2,000 and a charge of capital allowances under section 41 of the Finance Act, 1971.

Mr Peter Whiteman, QC, and Mr Hugh Webb for the company; Mr Brian Davenport, for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE BRIGHTMAN said that although it had been agreed that capital expenditure incurred by the company was capital expenditure incurred on or in connection with the oil rig project, the question before the court was, first, whether the items of expenditure were capital expenditure incurred on "the provision of machinery or plant" and, secondly, whether the items of expenditure incurred on the rig were capital expenditure incurred for the accommodation of a dry dock.

Mr Whiteman submitted that there were four limitations to be applied before the interest and fees could qualify for an allowance. (1) It was necessary to look at the object of the expenditure and only if the loan was essential for the acquisition of the capital asset would it qualify. (2) It must be essential for the carrying on of the business. (3) It was not too remote. (4) It was not any interest which would qualify but only interest payments that were not deductible in computing profits or gains of the trade (section 50(3) of the Act).

The fees and interest had to be items which on proper accounting principles could be and were capitalised in the accounts. All the limitations he had said, qualified. Mr Davenport argued that the commitment fees were money spent on obtaining the right to borrow and that the interest paid on the loan was a charge for the use of the money borrowed; what had been provided in return for the expenditure was

not the oil rig but the financial facilities to acquire it. The company's submissions really amounted to a rewriting section 41 as to capital allowances for the first year. The provision of an asset was not to any strict proximity test. The correct question to be asked was "What was the object in view in incurring the expenditure?" There were two ways of looking at the object in borrowing the money: the acquisition of the oil rig or the provision of the machinery or plant. The oil rig was the asset but the plant or machinery was the provision of the facility.

His Lordship reached the view that the Crown's case was to be preferred. There was a difference in the context of the present case between money spent on the provision of finance by the use of which the machinery or plant was to be obtained and the same when the money had been borrowed or not.

His Lordship said that the preliminary expenditure of a massive basic facility had to be built without borrowing money or the cost thereof, which was the same whether the money had been borrowed or not.

His Lordship had reached the view that the Crown's case was to be preferred. There was a difference in the context of the present case between money spent on the provision of finance by the use of which the machinery or plant was to be obtained and the same when the money had been borrowed or not.

Solicitors: Allen & Overy; Solicitors of Inland Revenue.

## Two Post Office vans raided

Five masked raiders, some armed with shotguns, attacked a Post Office van at Kingstanding, Birmingham, yesterday and fled with sacks thought to contain up to £70,000 in cash.

Another Post Office van was ambushed in Norwich Green, Liverpool, by four masked men, one with a sawn-off shotgun, who escaped with £20,000.

## Court of Appeal

## Form of criminal bankruptcy orders

**Regina v Anderson**

Before Lord Justice Ormrod, Mr Justice Thompson and Mr Justice Jupp  
(Judgment delivered Nov 15)

Jurisdiction to make criminal bankruptcy orders and the form in which such orders are to be drawn up were considered by the Court of Appeal when it upheld a criminal bankruptcy order imposed under section 39 of the Powers of Criminal Courts Act, 1973 by Judge McKinnon, QC, at the Central Criminal Court in October, 1976, on Keith Anthony Anderson. Their Lordships dismissed his appeal against conviction for uttering threatening property by deception, causing another to obtain by deception and procuring the execution of a valuable security by deception but reduced to four years a sentence of six years' imprisonment.

Section 39 provides: "(1) Where a person is convicted of an offence before the Crown Court and it appears to the court that—(a) it is a result of the offence, or of that offence taken together with any other relevant offence, a substantial loss of damage is being suffered by more persons whose identity is known to the court; and (b) the amount or aggregate amount of the loss or damage exceeds £15,000; the court may, in addition to dealing with the offender to make a compensation order against him in respect of the offence or, as the case may be, that offence and the other relevant offence or offences." By subsection (2) "other relevant offence or offences" means an offence or offences of which the person in question is convicted in the same proceedings on which the court takes into consideration in determining the sentence."

Mr Kenneth Bagwell, QC, and Mr John Foy for the appellant; Miss Ann Goddard for the Crown; Mr Philip Goss for the defence.

LORD JUSTICE ORMROD said that although an express statutory provision precluded a right of appeal against criminal bankruptcy orders, it was plain that the Court of Appeal could adjudicate where it was suggested that the order was "nullius in omni." In the instant case the problem was that the aggregate sum involved in the actual counts in the indictment did not amount to the minimum figure of £15,000 fixed by section 39(1). Did the Crown Court have power to make a criminal bankruptcy order? The answer lay in the meaning to be given to offences... which the court takes into consideration in determining the sentence in section 39(2). Section 39 and section 35 (dealing with compensation) were attempts to bridge the gap between the criminal and the civil code so it would not be right to consider separately as if it were a criminal statute. It was essentially a bridging section designed primarily to simplify procedure.

The phrase was used in the Criminal Justice Act, 1972, which introduced criminal bankruptcy orders and also the concept of compensation orders and significantly extended the powers of the courts in relation to restitution orders under section 32 of the

Theft Act. The question was whether the phrase meant "offences taken into consideration" in the technical procedural sense, which could be shortly indicated by TIC, or whether it had a wider significance. There was no doubt in the present case that the Crown Court, in fixing a sentence of six years had expressly taken into account the fact that the sum involved was about £26,000—far in excess of the specific charges proved.

The idea of taking into consideration other offences was a matter of practice rather than of statute, but the practical limits on the phrase as used in the Powers of Criminal Courts Act were what the statute said they were. Ordinarily a list of other offences was submitted to the defendant and he admitted his guilt of some or all of them. They were cleared up by being included in the sentence passed. Frequently, in fraud cases, for the sake of convenience the prosecution elected to prosecute for simple offences where police inquiries had revealed a series of offences, in some cases against the same victim, in others against many different people. The trial then proceeded with both prosecution and defence understanding that there were many other similar offences which could have been charged and sentence was passed on that basis.

Their Lordships' conclusion was that the phrase in section 39 must be construed as meaning exactly what it said—the offences for which the order was passed. In the present case all the other offences which added up to the £26,000 were clearly of a similar nature to those in the indictment.

As to the form of the order, the statute was mandatory and had to be complied with. There was no doubt that section 39(1) that the order "shall specify—... the amount of the loss or damage appearing to the court to have resulted from the offence or, if more than one, each of the offences..." might cause considerable difficulty.

In the present case the problem had been resolved by specifying in one schedule to the order the specific offences which appeared in the indictment on which the appellant had been convicted, and by setting out in another schedule a detailed list showing dates of other offences and amount of damage or loss suffered. That represented a list of all other offences effected by the same criminal deception as those of which the appellant was convicted. In the court's view such a method of drawing the order was satisfactory.

In practice it would be important for the judge making the order to ensure that in due time it could be drawn up in accordance with section 39(2) which might involve having available such a schedule as was available in the present case. It was also important to fix accurately the date of the first offence: section (d) and Schedule 1, paragraph 10.

The judge was entitled to make the order and its form was in accordance with the Act. It should stand.

Solicitors: Registrar of Criminal Appeals; Solicitor, Metropolitan Police; DPP.

## How to address judges

The Lord Chief Justice, in the Court of Appeal, gave a practice direction on the mode of addressing trial judges and listing cases before them. It was given at the request of the Lord Chancellor.

1. The following judges, when sitting in court, should be addressed as "My Lord" or "My Lady" according to their personal status: (i) any circuit judge or recorder sitting as a judge of the High Court under section 22 of the Courts Act, 1971; (ii) any judge sitting at the Central Criminal Court; (iii) any circuit judge who holds the office of honorary recorder of Liverpool or Manchester.

2. Subject to paragraph 1, the following judges should be addressed as "Your Honour": (i) any circuit judge; (ii) any retired circuit judge sitting as a recorder; (iii) any recorder and any deputy circuit judge, when sitting in court.

3. Subject to paragraph 5, when a case is listed for hearing before a circuit judge, the court list should refer to him or her, as the case may be, as "His or Her Honour Judge A".

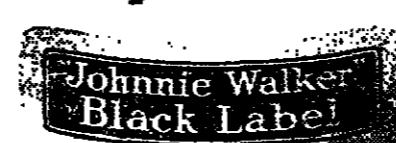
4. Subject to paragraph 5, when a case is listed for hearing before a recorder, the court list should refer to him or her, as the case may be, as "Mr (Mrs, Miss or other title) Recorder B".

5. When a case is listed for hearing before a circuit judge or a recorder sitting as a judge of the High Court:

(i) any circuit judge; (ii) any retired circuit judge sitting as a recorder; (iii) any recorder and any deputy circuit judge, when sitting in court.

6. Subject to paragraph 5, when a case is listed for hearing before a circuit judge, the court list should refer to him or her, as the case may be, as "His or Her Honour Judge A".

Black has always been the ultimate.



EXTRA SPECIAL OLD SCOTCH WHISKY

Johnnie Walker

## Back with pride and a tear, the tank men who broke through at Cambrai

Paris

Two coachloads of those who were left and who have thus grown old made special pilgrimage to France at the weekend. In that area where every road sign reads like a regimental battle honour, they found heroes' names are found in thousands of small tombstones that stand in stiff rows in cemeteries that seem to lie at the end of every side turning.

The coach drivers, who returned to "Blighty" today, were men of the Battle of Cambrai, one of the great indecisive battles of the First World War. It was fought just 60 years ago.

When it began at 6.20 on the morning of November 20, 1917, the British Army were entrenched stalemate before the Hindenburg Line. When early snow fell on the battlefield 16 days later and all was quiet the Allied and German high commands could make the reckoning. If the Hindenburg Line had been broken for a few miles, the German counterattack had broken the old British line for at least an equal distance to the south. Nineteen Victoria Crosses had been won, 44,207 British and Commonwealth troops had been lost and 50,000 German soldiers were killed or taken prisoner.

If the balance sheet made all too familiar reading at that time it masked that fact that Cambrai meant or should have meant, the end of trench warfare. Had the Allied generals only been able to understand its significance Cambrai could have been the last battle of the war.

For it was in this battle that the Royal Tank Corps was used effectively for the first time. In fact nearly every tank in the world—all British—joined the battle, 476 of them.

The totally new way of warfare they made possible brought remarkable results in the first hours of the battle. By the end of the first day the Hindenburg Line had been crossed along an eight-mile front and the surprised German army pushed back nearly five miles. These were much larger gains against as heavily defended positions as had been achieved in weeks of bloody fighting on the Somme or in Flanders. News of the victory was sped back to England and on order of King George V for the first and only time in the war, all the church bells were rung in triumph.

The triumph was shortlived because the British command just did not understand that

the tank no longer made it necessary for them to dig in after an advance. Had they surged on at that pace, the German counterattack would have had no time to form up and deliver its neutralizing blow within 10 days.

The rapid advance at Cambrai was achieved by sending tanks to clear the way for infantry following closely behind—a set piece manoeuvre the German army used so tellingly at the start of the last war. Sadly their deployment at Cambrai by commanding officers unskilled in their use made "inevitably heavy losses higher and gave weight to the argument that the battle was really any good. When their first commander, General Hugh Elles, inspected them after the battle nearly half the tanks were destroyed and of those remaining needed extensive repairs. From three brigades 188 officers and 965 men had been lost.

The men who came to Cambrai last weekend were among the survivors of all the regiments that took part. Their averages age was 82 and only a very few of them had ever seen more of the city than three towers of the cathedral in the unreachable distance 60 years before.

Just why they came at all might seem a mystery. To hear them talk of the stench of the battlefield, of dead brothers and futile sacrifice. Surely no one could wish to freshen the memory of a nightmare like that. But

"old men forget, yet all shall be forgot  
But he'll remember with advantages  
What feats he did that day"

That was not true of Havrincourt and Riebecourt than it was of Agincourt.

These old men came to stand in pride among the graves of long dead comrades, to share memories with others who alone can understand their full meaning, to try to see again the spot where they had lived while those around them died. History has made them all heroes but honest men among them like Machine-Gunner Fisher could remember boarding the train for France to find a sentry posted on the roadside door to stop men deserting there and then. They were not so much heroes as had been herism thrust upon them.

However Cambrai and its people regard them as heroes and for two years now had been preparing for the diamond anniversary of the battle. The market square in front of the Hotel de Ville was brave with bunting and with

Ian Murray

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Bernard Levin

## A chance to achieve the impossible by doing the inconceivable

It says a good deal for the over-all political, emotional and psychological rightness of President Sadat's visit to Israel that not even Mr Andrew Faulds—not so much as Sir Harold Beeley or Miss Marion Woolfson—has denounced it as part of the Zionist conspiracy. Please be not among others, Allah!

The speeches of the Egyptian President and the Israeli Prime Minister have naturally been scrutinized with microscopic care by all the experts on Middle Eastern Affairs. That kind of dowing, however, is not my trade, and the very proper attitudes of wonderment and of praise for an astonishingly courageous initiative, have been amply expressed by others.

What, then, have I to add? Only this: on one of my favourite themes: that although the hole in the hedge is apt to get horribly scratched by the brambles, those who follow him through it not only do so unscathed, but tend to wonder what all the fuss was about.

What is to make real, to many on both sides in the Middle East, the abstractions that their opponents have hitherto been. The baneful howling of Gaddafi, in this context, is therefore of no consequence at all; the dogs bark, but the caravan has already moved on. Indeed, the demands put forward by President Sadat, and even the non-committal reply of Mr Begin, are themselves of little importance: what matters is that many an Arab, and many an Israeli, now knows that those on the other side are not equipped with horns and forked tails.

That is not a lesson that we can expect the Gaddafis to encourage; the learning of their continued power depends on demonstrating that there is enough fear on their chests to deaden the thinking of the



medals they award themselves. (Mind you, Mr Begin's election, only a few months ago, provoked a burst of doom, record and present intransigence being held in the way of elections, are neither particularly sensitive to public opinion nor particularly scrupulous about insisting that it is behind them. But I often wonder how fierce is the desire of the average Egyptian or Syrian or Iraqi to get himself a place in history, Palestine a home fit for Dr Habib to live in.

And then, think of the secondary effect on the Israelis of President Sadat's words. I have believed ever since the Yom Kippur war, which so significantly shook the Israeli's belief in their own military invulnerability, that all that was still needed to start the wheels of peace was a similar shock to their similar conviction of the moral superiority of their cause. The Egyptian President, in attacking that conviction, brought no new arguments to bear; but he said it (and courageously) directly to the usual squabbles over protocol; the shape of the discussion-table, the order of precedence of guests and hosts, the definition of the entire proceedings, the language in which the words were to be spoken, the redness of the carpet and the number of guns in the saloon; all these trivialities, which have so often held up peace negotiations while men

Nor do I at all despair of the same thing happening among the Arabs. There are changes. True, most of the Arab leaders, having nothing much, or even nothing at all, to worry about in the way of elections, are neither particularly sensitive to public opinion nor particularly scrupulous about insisting that it is behind them. But I often wonder how fierce is the desire of the average Egyptian or

Israeli to tell the President of Egypt to tell the Israelis, in their own language, and by their own invitation, to give back the Arab lands they occupy. It is now also possible for them to think seriously about doing so.

That is really what I meant about the hole and the hedge. One of the most hopeful characteristics of the human race is its ability to accept the previously unacceptable, as soon as it has happened, and however it is happening has come about. (Look, for example, at the way in which American racial attitudes began to change as soon as the main body of her civil rights legislation was enacted. The United States has a long way to go before she becomes truly colour-blind, but if it comes to the Middle East will not achieve enduring peace by next Wednesday afternoon.)

Sadat and Begin have between them bled the car. One of the most promising and attractive aspects of the visit was the complete absence of the usual squabbles over protocol; the shape of the discussion-table, the order of precedence of guests and hosts, the definition of the entire proceedings, the language in which the words were to be spoken, the redness of the carpet and the number of guns in the saloon; all these trivialities, which have so often held up peace negotiations while men

continue to die, were dispensed with. The Israeli invited the Egyptian and the Egyptian accepted the invitation, and everything else simply happened; apart from anything else, the meeting must have increased the respect of each man for the other, which can do nothing but good.

So I am more hopeful now about an eventual Middle Eastern settlement than I have ever been. For it can almost be said now that there are no non-negotiable positions any longer. Israeli withdrawal from Sinai? Unthinkable! Arab recognition of an Israeli Jerusalem? Unimaginable! Arab-Israeli co-operation on desert reclamation schemes, Israeli-Arab accord on health promotion? Unbelievable! As unthinkable, unimaginable and unbelievable, anyway, as a visit by the President of Egypt to Israel a visit including an official visit to the Israeli Parliament, not to mention the playing of the Egyptian National Anthem by the band of an Israeli guard of honour. Hedges are quickly destroyed, but grow slowly. No doubt less brightly spotlit negotiations will now continue between Egypt and Israel, and they may come to real fruition in an agreement involving genuine concessions on both sides. If so, as much the better; but, even if not, the effect of President Sadat's visit will go on seeping into the consciousness of millions throughout the Middle East and the imagination of millions more elsewhere. From the moment President Sadat came down the aircraft steps—well, to be on the safe side let me say from the moment he went up them again—it was possible to say that the Middle Eastern debate, always armed and four times bloody, had fundamentally shifted its very nature, not just its terms. Mehomert has come to the hard line that keeps them in office, will prefer the evidence of their own eyes and ears.

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## Why the British grant to Bolivia was stopped

Lord Chalfont (*The Times*, November 13) condemns the British Government's decision to cancel the proposed £19m grant to the Bolivian mining industry and makes accusations of double standards. While whitewashing the appalling situation of human rights in Bolivia, Lord Chalfont accuses us in the NUM, who campaigned for the blocking of the grant, of "cynical disregard" for the tin miners of Bolivia.

In other quarters, however, notably among Bolivia's miners themselves, the decision was welcomed unreservedly. Two weeks ago Dr Luis Adolfo Siles, the last civilian President of Bolivia and a respected social democrat elder statesman, spoke to the NUM in London of the joy felt by Bolivia's miners and many other workers at the British Government's decision. Why did the Bolivian miners press for the cancellation of this grant? To understand, we must look at the general situation of human rights in Bolivia and the tin miners' strike of June 1976 in particular. Since General Banzer came to power in 1971, Bolivia has been ruled by a repressive military regime. Opposition and dissent have been met with brutality. For example, in January 1974 the army massacred a hundred peasants in Cobambaba because they were demonstrating against massive increases in food prices. The regime institutionalized its repression in November 1974 when trade union activity and political parties were suspended. Political imprisonment, torture and exile have been commonplace. Even to the extent that Colonel Selich, one of General Banzer's former ministers, died in detention as a result of torture.

In November 1974 the Law of Following the abolition of union activity, Decree Law 11952 established government appointment of "labour coordinators" to replace democratically elected trade union leaders. Several trade unionists were offered positions as "labour coordinators" but again not surprisingly, most trade union leaders refused to act as stooges of the regime. They were imprisoned or exiled under the Compulsory Civil Service Law. Today there are more than 5,000 Bolivians living in enforced exile, including the majority political and trade union leadership. Decree Law 11947 prohibits all strikes and stoppages and orders the immediate dismissal of all trade union leaders involved in such action.

Despite this legislation miners' leaders continued to hold unofficial meetings. In May 1976, the banned miners' union, FSTMB, managed to hold a congress at which they elected new leaders and demanded a wage increase from US\$1.75 a day to US\$4. While final negotiations were suspended, the government ordered troops to occupy the mines. The miners went on

strike in protest, and the government responded by cutting off food supplies and drinking water to the mining communities. The army arrested more than 300 leaders throughout the country and exiled 52 major trade union leaders to Chile. A wage settlement was imposed on the miners (after consultation with "labour coordinators") which met only a fraction of the demands, but attached were promises of improved housing, education and recreation facilities. Ultimately, this sugar on the pill of the enforced settlement would have been financed out of the British government's £19m grant.

Following the strike, the NUM, which had been in touch with the Bolivian miners for some time, accepted their invitation to visit Bolivia and to see their working and living conditions. This we did in April 1977. The visit was secret, first since the Bolivian miners warned that there would be grave danger of reprisals from the authorities should the miners speak openly to us. Second, we had reason to believe that the delegation would not have been allowed to operate freely.

To cite just two examples. M. Marcel Pepin, of the World Confederation of Labour in Brussels, on a similar mission, was expelled from the country in late 1976. Just last month a delegation from the ILO found itself accompanied by an army colonel when it visited the mining areas.

The vast majority of our contacts in Bolivia were not "discreet on the run" as Lord Chalfont so quaintly puts it but included large numbers of working miners, nuns and priests, human rights and development

action.

It became abundantly clear to us that to make an extraordinary grant of this size unconditionally to the Bolivian min-

ership workers, and members of responsible political parties fortunate enough not to have been exiled. Furthermore, we would like to point out to Lord Chalfont and his researcher (sic) that at no stage during 1976 did the NUM make approaches through the British Embassy in La Paz or through anybody else for permission to visit Bolivia. This can be confirmed with the Foreign Office.

During our visit the army still occupied the mines. We saw the appalling working conditions of the miners and to some idea of the rule of terror under which the mining communities were living. Our report was our modest attempt to communicate this to our fellow trade unionists in this country and was never intended as the definitive work on Bolivia.

Everybody we spoke to in Bolivia was firmly opposed to the proposed British grant until such time as political prisoners were released, exiles allowed to return and free trade union activity again permitted in the mining areas. The miners understood the implications of their stand. They realized that the renewal of obsolete equipment in the mines was both long overdue and critical to their safety. In a situation where an underground face worker contracts first-degree silicosis within five years and his average life expectancy is little over 30, this cannot have been an easy decision. However, as one miner put it, "of course we need the money to modernize the mines, but we don't want it if it assists repression".

It became abundantly clear to us that to make an extraordinary grant of this size unconditionally to the Bolivian min-

ership when the miners had borne the brunt of the latest onslaught on human rights would have been an endorsement of that repression. Dr David Owen has often emphasized the importance he attaches to human rights considerations in determining Britain's aid and foreign policy. The provisions of this grant at this time would have made a mockery of this commitment.

Thus the NUM, together with the TUC, development agencies, human rights organizations, church groups and MPs of all parties, campaigned vigorously for human rights conditions to be attached to the Bolivian grant—a position supported in The Times editorial of June 23. In August it was not Mrs Judith Hart alone but the Cabinet which, after considering all possible sources of information, including Lord Chalfont's decision to cancel the project. In our view, quite rightly.

The NUM's stand is not "public posturing and sanctimonious ranting", as Lord Chalfont's phrase, but a statement of moral principle. We condemn the violation of human rights and trade union freedoms wherever they may occur. Indeed the NUM has in recent years campaigned for basic human freedoms not only in South Africa, Chile, Iran and Bolivia but also Poland and Czechoslovakia. The NUM is prepared to take up the challenge on behalf of oppressed peoples everywhere. We would like to think Lord Chalfont's own position is just as unequivocal.

Ken Toon, Ted McKay and Joe McKie  
NUM Delegation to Bolivia  
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## THE TIMES DIARY/PHS

### Humour springs eternal from Mr Hope

The four-piece orchestra at Claridges was still polishing its arrangement of *Thanks for the Memory* when Bob Hope strolled past them, briefly nodded to acknowledge his signature tune, adjusted his tie and walked into the press reception.

It was a restrained Mr Hope who met yesterday. Perhaps he was tired after a morning of rehearsals for last night's royal variety show. Clearly the shock of Bing Crosby's death has left him shaken. Many of the questions he was asked concerned his old sparring partner, and he grew visibly sadder as he answered them. Each one, clearly, was an intimation of his own mortality.

It would be wrong, however, to record the occasion only as the classic situation of the clown with a broken heart. Mr Hope can still pull some funny rabbits out of his hat.

What did he think of Concorde, on which he had flown to London? "It's fine," he said. Given a couple of extra hours to look for my luggage. And it flies so high, I swear I heard the organs playing."

What did he think of President Carter? "A very, very religious man. Every time I eat a peanut, I feel immortal."

What had been responsible for his long and happy marriage to the same woman? "Lots of travel away from home. Been married for 43



### Keeping a civil servant on ice

Everyone knows that civil servants are no longer chimes who spend all day drinking tea and who went to the pub except for the odd night. Mr. Blackshaw, the director general of the Offshore Supplies Office in Glasgow, however, certainly confounds the old image.

Mr. Blackshaw has been awarded the Pery Medal—the highest skiing honour in Britain, after completing a 1,600-mile ski traverse from the northwestern tip of Norway to the country's

south coast. The trek occupied three weeks and involved crossing the highest peaks in Norway, Finland and Sweden. As the achievement might suggest, Mr. Blackshaw is addicted to long distance ski sorties. A former instructor in mountain warfare with the Royal Marines, he led the first British traverse of the Alps on skis. He is the author of the most comprehensive modern textbook on mountaineering and is a former president of the British Mountaineering Council.

area of hypothesis: "Children are given free milk in schools but you can ask for chocolate milkshakes. For this reason, people are big and tall and some are very fat."

"Canadians live in igloos or tall buildings. The people live on maple syrup which is on tap from trees and can be had at no cost until they put it into bottles or make candy—and then it is very expensive."

Doubtless a selection of illustrated brochures is now on its way from Ontario to the young lady who reads her essay: "I'd like one day to be an Innergrunter."

The shops that keep foreign tourists in socks, vests and pants might not seem them an efficient source for fine wines but Marks and Spencer's have had such success with their cheap plonk that now they are venturing into chateaux labels and champagne, and their Asti Spumante and claret are ranked best buys in the current Good Wine Guide. Now comes a chateau-bottle range at £1.99 a bottle, including a genuine lush sauternes, and an excellent 1975 claret, Chateau Pas de Rauzan, which I heartily recommend for laying down.

Those who still wish to catch a glimpse of Miss Redgrave's posterior in the women's magazine, *Fair*



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## THE NO. 1 CRISIS INDUSTRY

British Steel is rapidly reaching the point at which the Government might find it expedient to top the excess noughts off the loss figures in an effort to give it a fresh start. The state-owned undertaking's deficit is at present increasing at a rate of about £10m a week, or £500m a year—a figure that is likely to be confirmed by the BSC chairman, Sir Charles Villiers, when he presents the state-owned undertaking's half-yearly results later this week.

If the losses are eventually written off—in Parliamentary terms, this method of dealing with a difficult situation is sometimes known as "undertaking a financial reconstruction"—will anything have changed? The short if somewhat crude answer is "No". The state-owned steel sector in Britain will continue to lurch from one difficult to another impossible situation until fundamental changes are made both in its structure and in its outlook.

Many of the changes that need to be made are well-known and easily enumerated. They relate mainly to structure. Less well recognized are the alterations in outlook, or long-term policy as it is formally described, that now need to go with them. It is as true today as it was five, ten, or even 20 years ago that the industry is heavily overmanned and at some locations is using outdated equipment in old-fashioned plants. At least 60,000 men need to be moved out, and works that are no longer cap-

able of producing steel economically have to be closed.

These are facts that were recognized by the renationalised concern's first chairman, Lord Melchett, and were equally obvious to his successor, Sir Monty Finniston. They are understood by Sir Charles, today's incumbent, but like his predecessors he has been able to make little progress in overcoming them.

Basic truths about British Steel have tended to be obscured in recent months by statements that steelmakers throughout the world are losing vast sums of money. It is well-known that America's Bethlehem Steel, comparable in some ways to the British undertaking, has incurred heavy losses, as have many European producers. But, in general, these losses are likely to disappear when the recession ends, as the plants incurring them are sound at heart, and will be the first to benefit from the eventual upturn in demand.

This is not the case where many of the British plants are concerned, and the fact that they are allowed to continue in existence is not solely the result of union pressure to maintain labour forces. It is, more relevantly, a reflection of timidity on the part of prominent members of the Government who represent steelmaking constituencies and are not willing to suffer political setbacks by increasing unemployment levels.

But modernization alone is no longer the complete answer to steel's problems. The Corporation itself admits that closure of its old plant would only reduce its

current losses by about a fifth. While steel's successive chairmen have struggled to pull the industry into the post-war world, against the protestations of the unions and their political supporters, the world itself has been changing. The plan for British steel that originally envisaged the shipping of 6m tonnes a year to overseas buyers is no longer realistic; rapidly developing nations such as Brazil and South Korea now have works of their own—and these plants are more modern, have lower wages and fewer men; overall consumption is not rising rapidly enough to offset these additions to world capacity.

Indeed, there are now serious doubts about the validity of Britain remaining in business at all where general steelmaking is concerned. Basic items can be made as well and better in developing countries as they can here. Where British experience is still valid is in the manufacture of high quality, high value steels, and there may well be a case for considering specialization of this kind when drafting long-term policy.

In the shorter term, it is to be hoped that talks between the major steelmaking nations and groups will continue. Recent moves towards protectionism, if continued, will only aggravate a difficult situation. The fixing of production and price levels are distasteful to democratic countries, but such methods, particularly when they are intended only for a limited period, are less likely to cause long-term damage than the re-erection of tariff walls.

There are important and recognizable reasons for the increased length of some criminal trials, among them improved investigative techniques and manpower, for example, in fraud squads, greater sophistication of criminal methods, increased independence of juries and recognition by them of commercial malpractice as criminal, and public concern that criminal guilt should not be established until there has been a full and thorough examination of the relevant facts by both prosecution and defence.

In this context, a greater measure of caution on the part of counsel

instructed by either prosecution or defence, even though it may add something to the length of a trial is understandable. Prolongation of a trial due to inexperience or if it ever happened, unwarrented, to dilatoriness, ought immediately to be dealt with by the trial judge.

Further, as recently as in the

Annual Statement for 1976-77 the Professional Conduct Committee of

## Awarding criminal legal aid

From the Chairman of the Bar

Sir, Mr. Montgomery-Campbell's letter of November 16 canvassed the possibility of a scheme for the assessment of eligibility for criminal legal aid analogous to that provided by the Legal Aid Board.

Lord Wigoder referred to as the lack of proper financial control of criminal legal aid is obviously desirable. Mr. Montgomery-Campbell's letter touches upon, though it does not resolve, a problem of fundamental public importance.

Every criminal trial concerns the liberty of the subject and the law is founded upon the presumption of innocence. Therefore, private consideration (even by a highly respected and independent committee of lawyers or of laymen) of whether or not a particular defendant has a sufficient financial fund to cover the costs of a criminal trial—such as legal aid, legal expenses, and the costs of a trial—should be a matter of public concern.

The protection of the public purse by financial control of criminal legal aid is already provided for in each individual case by both the limit on fees fixed by statutory regulation and the precise assessment of the fair and reasonable fee by the taxing officer of the court after the case has been completed. An effective method of obtaining additional control could include:

i) early assessment of the contribution which a legally assisted defendant should make towards his own costs;

ii) requiring, wherever possible, a downpayment by a defendant accepting criminal legal aid on the costs to be contributed off-set;

iii) the court making a realistic order for payment of the balance of the assessed contribution.

The present annual cost of criminal legal aid at all levels of jurisdiction—magistrates' courts, the crown court and above—is approximately £37m (1976-77 figures) to cover both legal costs and all other disbursements. The sum covered by way of contributions was approximately £1.1m or, say, 2.9 per cent. On the face of it, this recovery rate is unacceptably low.

At the same time, it must be recognized that at a net cost per head of the population of less than £1 a year our criminal legal system has gained the admiration of those concerned with the quality of criminal justice in every free country. It has ensured that any person accused of crime, however poor, however unpopular his case has the same access to the services of the Bar and of solicitors as the richest and the most popular.

The Bar has already taken and will continue to take steps to promote procedural changes designed to reduce costs and delay, for example, the new pretrial review procedure; in the final analysis, however, the claims of justice and personal liberty must not be overruled by considerations of mere financial expediency.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID MCNEILL.

The Senate of the Inns of Court and the Bar,  
11 South Square,  
Gray's Inn, WC1.  
November 18.

## A MAJORITY, BUT A WARNING

The Greek election results are disappointing but they are also a salutary warning. Greece's allies were so impressed by the success of Mr Karamanlis in the 1974 elections that they came to feel they could take him for granted. They gave the impression of being paralysed (with some reason, admittedly) by the problems of getting Greece into the European Community. They were also paralysed by the deadlock in Turkish politics, which gave Greeks the impression of being unsupported. The bill for this and for the long years of unwise American support for the military dictatorship is now being presented in the form of the advance of Mr Papandreou, who has established his Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement (Pask) as the main opposition party by winning about a quarter of the votes. Mr Karamanlis still has a comfortable majority but it is much reduced and he did not obtain a majority of the votes cast.

His success was earned by very intense and expert organizational work over three years but also by a campaign which mixed fashionable ideas on self-management and decentralization with promises to the farmers and with nationalistic resentment against Nato, the Americans, the multinational companies and other familiar bogeymen. "A Greek that belongs to the Greeks" was one of his slogans. He suggested that Nato was conspiring with

Turkey against Greece, and that American facilities in Greece were for spying on Greece rather than for defending her. He favoured a collective European defence system by countries of a "federal socialist Europe", whatever that means, and supported "all liberation movements fighting against imperialism". He suggested that Greek accession to the European Community "will consolidate the peripheral role of the country as a satellite of the capitalist system; will render national planning impossible; will seriously threaten Greek industry; and will lead to the extinction of the Greek farmer".

That this curious mish-mash of unreal hopes and accusations should appeal to a quarter of Greek voters is discouraging because it reveals a deep vein of disillusion and distrust, but it is not wholly surprising. America's long support for the dictatorship, and Nato's importance over Cyprus, were bound to exact a high cost in lost confidence. In the second place both Mr Karamanlis and Greece's friends and allies abroad have been served notice that some hard work is required to rebuild confidence in the western alliance. Mr Papandreou's vision of half joining the third world while negotiating specially favourable relations with the European Community is a chimera. The west cannot do without Greece, but Greece cannot do without the west. Both the western allies and Mr Karamanlis now have new reasons for working to persuade the Greek people of this.

There has naturally been disappointment with the high

## MR VANCE: NO MERE ROUTINE VISIT

This week's trip to South America by Mr Vance, the American Secretary of State, is a chance to tackle the quite serious differences that have developed between the Americans and several Latin American countries, principally over human rights and nuclear non-proliferation. President Carter was to have gone to Venezuela and Brazil himself this month, but had to postpone the visits because of difficulties in Washington. So it has been left to Mr Vance, on a trip to Argentina, Brazil and Venezuela, to take on the task of soothing ruffled feelings—and at the same time promoting the American point of view. It is an exercise that requires a good deal of tact, something that has not always been evident in American dealings with their southern neighbours.

Mr Carter's decision to emphasize the importance of human rights was in many ways one of the best things that could have happened to Latin America at this point. So much of the area is suffering under the repression of military regimes, and the time is now ripe for a swing of the pendulum back to more liberal systems. But blunt statements

and arm-twisting from Washington were bound to upset touchy army men—just as they did the Kremlin—and Mr Carter seems to have underestimated the sharpness of the reaction. In response, he has given the impression of reducing his campaign for human rights in Latin America for fear of alienating the military governments.

Clearly he has to take some account of these governments' feelings if the Americans are to retain their influence in the area. The Latin Americans are right to do what they can to keep the situation in the area under control.

Mr Vance's final stop, in Caracas, is in many ways the easiest of the three, since Venezuela is one of the few remaining democracies in Latin America, and has joined enthusiastically in Mr Carter's human rights campaign. There, it will be a matter of oil prices, and of trying to persuade Venezuela, as an influential member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, that there should be little or no increase next year. Venezuela is very sensitive about American economic influence, and one more country in which tact is needed.

Resistance on the nuclear issue is likely to be tougher. When it tried earlier this year to block a cut-off device to deal with "the prolonged and indifferent ringing of the bell", although the bell often displays the installer's telephone number, using it only yields a frustrating answer that he is not empowered to silence it without authority from the ungetable bow-tie.

## Silencing burglar alarms

From Mr E. M. Nicholson  
Sir, The Director-General of the British Security Industry Association (November 7) has responded so helpfully to my initiative that I will refrain from quarrelling with his assumption that these devices do in fact reduce the number of burglaries. I particularly welcome his assurance that an efficient keyholder service on a 24-hour basis can be arranged via the security industry, which will also be ready to provide a cut-off device to deal with "the prolonged and indifferent ringing of the bell". Although the bell often displays the installer's telephone number, using it only yields a frustrating answer that he is not empowered to silence it without authority from the ungetable bow-tie.

May I now request Mr Wheeler

not to wait for the code of practice, which he suspects will fail,

but to take immediate back-up action:

(1) to arrange a 24-hour keyholder service by the industry as he suggests

(2) to seek agreement that installing companies will henceforth

strongly advise their customers to

include a time cut-off device in

every new or newly serviced in-

stallation or a flashing light as

an alternative when available

(3) make known the industry's

readiness to support practical legis-

lation to penalise users who fail

to provide an efficient keyholding

service, or to prevent nuisance from needlessly prolonged ringing of these bells.

If he will do this he will earn

widespread gratitude and will

avert the risk of more bureau-

cratic solutions. With respect to

Mr J. R. Pritchard (November 5),

I must reiterate these the pro-

cedure under the 1974 Control of

Pollution Act. It really should not be necessary for ratepayers to pay

officials to serve notices on off-

enders and to prescribe ways for

them to cease the nuisance. As

Mr Wheeler has clearly shown,

the industry, backed by public

opinion, can handle the trouble at

source but will probably need a

simple legislative back-up to deal

with it completely. Your corre-

spondence reveals that the aim is

agreed and is practicable. Can

effective action now ensue?

Yours faithfully,

E. M. NICHOLSON,

13 Upper Cheyne Row, SW3.

November 7.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Settling pay differentials

From Mr John Porter

Sir, Professor Edith Jacques' letter (November 11) of the lack of institutional response to her letter of October 27. Speaking for the Engineering Employers' Federation

I must assure him that we are completely in agreement with his criticism of productivity dealing and with his call for the establishment of genuinely collective bargaining.

We part company with him, however, on his proposed solution whereby the trade unions should determine "the differential distribution as between its major bargaining groups of whatever overall percentage increase the economy will bear". Quite apart from the lack of realism in my proposal which assumes that there is an objective "input" measure of the rewards for, for example, a man of 35 whose family has grown up and whose wife is 35 and is as much as he was, but well respected and reliable; a woman of 32 whose children are at school and whose husband is working; and a bachelor of 26 with unusual skill and talents, all of whom could easily hold jobs with the same evaluation ranking for the same employer?

Yours faithfully,

INNES MACBEATH,  
11 Broadhurst,  
Askehead,  
Surrey.

November 11.

same reason that company and plan job evaluations require regular revision: the number of variables is immense and a totally job-based approach leaves a fundamental con-

cern out of account.

Pay (for employees) is based partly on the assumption of benefit and partly on the assumption of reward. The element of benefit increases the longer one's service and (more through the agency of the state than the employer in the country), the extent of one's responsibilities as a whole.

The element of reward covers

payment for current contribution. Job evaluation makes sense in assessing the job and not the man or woman doing it. But in human terms, can we seriously claim that there is an objective "input" measure of the rewards for, for example, a man of 35 whose family has grown up and whose wife is 35 and is as much as he was, but well respected and reliable; a woman of 32 whose children are at school and whose husband is working; and a bachelor of 26 with unusual skill and talents, all of whom could easily hold jobs with the same evaluation ranking for the same employer?

Yours faithfully,

INNES MACBEATH,

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November 11.

From Mr Rod Robertson

Sir, Your report on the pay review (November 11) in the first findings of the ORC poll on earnings and wage claims. Apparently 87 per cent of interviewees felt that the Governor's "haste to begin inflation" should be supported. According to the Prime Minister, this result is "astonishing and remarkable".

My natural scepticism of opinion and public opinion would lead me to wonder what the response would have been to the following question: "In the light of widely differing views as to the relative impact of pay increases on inflation, do you think that the country's economic problems can best be tackled by a series of damaging and dangerous confrontations with key groups of workers?"

However, before we establish another institution we should have some care about its terms of reference. On several occasions during the past half dozen years I have investigated the possibilities of national job evaluation and attitudes to it. It founders for the

will shame the Government into risking the hostility of the trade unions and giving the firefighting troops the facilities they need.

Yours faithfully,





# LEBANON

## In search of confidence after 'the events'

by Robert Fisk

There are two faces which stare down constantly at you from the walls of Beirut. Both are portrayed in colour on white-edged posters and both wear that serious, slightly studied look that statesmen feel they must adopt when wrestling with matters of great political moment. One of them is President Elias Sarkis of Lebanon, the banker whom the Syrians helped into democratic power last year before the civil war had ended. The other, a sterner, less compromising figure is President Assad of Syria.

As they mark the anniversary of their country's independence, the Lebanese may be forgiven for reflecting on the symbolism of the twin posters. The Syrians entered Lebanon last year to relieve military pressure on the Christians who were losing the war. Yet no one has yet decided who won the war or whether—if there were no Syrians—the country will be for ever divided. Even President Sadat's visit to Jerusalem will not cure these doubts.

There are those who are uncertain who controls Lebanon now. Is it President Sarkis with his government of technocrats and economists, his appeals for aid and his rejuvenated but largely impotent new army? Or is it President Assad whose 30,000 troops occupy all but the southernmost corner of Lebanon and whose nation once gave its name not only to Syria but to Lebanon as well?

The Government of Mr Sarkis insists, bravely, that its country is once again an independent, united republic. President Assad says the same; and it may yet come to pass.

But, for the present, Lebanon is still politically and militarily a broken state. Its shattered capital is trying to regain its steady commercial heartbeat but Beirut has something in common with the capitals of Europe after the Second World War.

It is a place of terrible memories and ruins, of uncertainty, fear and rumours of conspiracy. Harry

Roucheh in west Beirut where the funerals owners are diligently painting over the rust on the big wheel.

At the city centre the Muslim taxi drivers will engage you with false laughter about the good time to come until they reach the old front line in Martyrs Square. Then

they may tell you to continue your journey in a taxi with President Sarkis with his government

waiting on the other side of the boulevard. For, however great the expressed optimism, the year-old ruins still mark a political, sectarian path through the centre of Beirut and through Lebanon as well.

Across the east of the city, Bashir Gemayel, the son of the old Phalangist leader who spoke for the Christians during the recent war, still turns up each morning at the French-built Ketaeb barracks, and walks to his office past the armoured cars that once stormed Tel al-Zaatar.

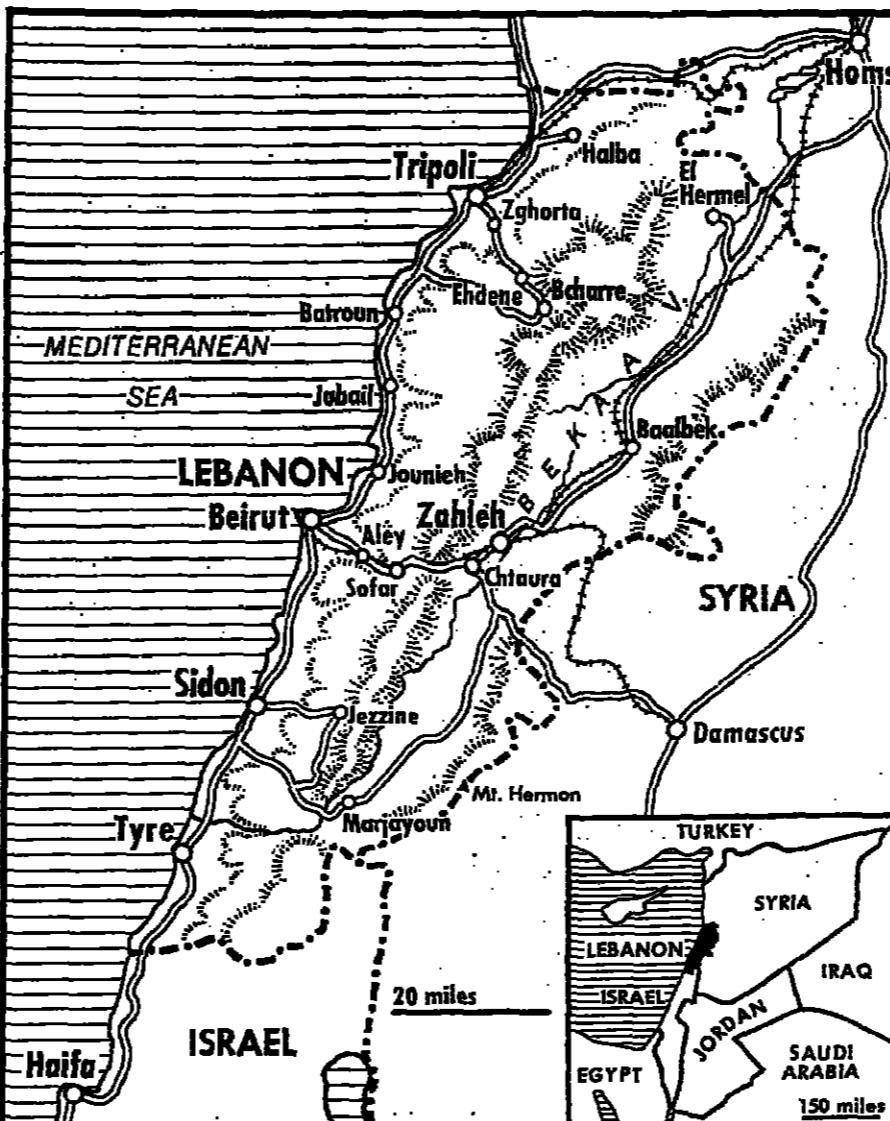
He is a handsome, thoughtful and not by any means an intransigent man. But it is his father, together with former President Camille Chamoun and his beligerent sons, who still control and nurse the pace of reconciliation.

Kemal Jumblatt, the wartime leftist leader, is dead. murdered.

Walid Jumblatt, the dead chieftain's tall, shy son urges moderation on his mountain people but has no power now over the thousands of Palestinian fighters in Lebanon.

The Christians and Muslims who work in the Lebanese civil service would think it unfair to dwell too long on the sadness of recent history. The

events—"al hawadess" in Arabic—is the anodyne



## History loses to strategy in south

Before the Israelis initiated water. Hachette's pocket guide devoted three pages to the magnificent Crusader ruins of Beaufort Castle, besieged by Saladin and once the retreat of the Kings of Jerusalem.

Only the Palestinian guerrillas, a few frightened vil-

lages, a score or so of jour-

nalists—the Israelis

once taught—you could think of spending any

time there now. Benoit

Itself has come under daily

shelling from the Christian

Lebanese villages along the

Tyre is still under the area's historical significance

Christians' Israeli mentors control of the Palestinians use their long-range artillery and a collection of armed to fire at the crossroads west of the little, deserted hamlet.

When the fighting was at its worst in September, military training with the shells hissed hourly over the Beaufort fortifications. They smashed few people but put it to me the other day—

—through the roof of the castle, where the Palestinians launched an enormous hole

through the roof of the cavernous twelfth-century water cistern to the west of the keep.

The participants in the

desertory, but politically

dangerous, fighting in the

cavernous twelfth-century water cistern to the west of the keep.

They have not missed its strategic importance for the Palestinians. Southern Lebanon lies along the only border with Israel—Palestine—where they can operate in comparative freedom.

Jordan and Syria are now closed to their commands.

For the Israelis, southern Lebanon contains the cove-

red sources of the Jordan river and the Litani flows

2,000ft beneath Beaufort castle, where the Palesti-

nians have their positions. A military thrust into the Arab world by Israel would almost certainly meet heavy resistance amid the desolate villages along the river.

The Christian Lebanese beside the border with Israel, in conflict with the Palestinians and Lebanese leftists long after the country's civil war has ended, are under effective Israeli control and have created a cordon sanitaire along the frontier with

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Israel. Only Benoit Jbail would the Palestinians be able to walk up to the Israeli lines—should they dare to do so.

Israeli fighter aircraft fly high over the border, turning southwards again only when they have cruised over the city of Tyre.

To outsiders, and to many Lebanese, the war in southern Lebanon provides a puzzling, pointless affair. A battlefield created for political, artificial reasons.

So it was the United States which became most concerned about the implications of the fighting. After

the Israelis had sent troops

and armour across the

border in September, the

Lebanese themselves

were not sure about

whether the Israeli

and the Palestinians

enjoy the prestige of being

the only Arab army still

fighting the Israelis.

And should the excuse be required for an advance into southern Lebanon, the Israelis have only to point to the dangers represented by the Palestinian presence.

For the Syrians, anxious to smother the shooting war, southern Lebanon provides constant evidence of Israeli

and Arab world.

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## Beirut revives but sense of division lingers

At first sight Beirut seems unscarred by war. You have to go to the city centre and explore slowly, preferably on foot, to take in the appalling damage which stretches not only to the port but cuts a continuous swathe of destruction across the country.

The obvious place to start is the hotels district by the sea front, dominated by the battle-blacked multi-storey Holiday Inn.

Facing this stands the battered bulk of what was Beirut's best known hotel, the St Georges, its entrance now bricked up into anonymity. The poolside bar tucked under the side of the St Georges offers an illusion of normality. Here well dressed Lebanese still greet each other with Gallic good manners, slipping from French into Arabic and back again.

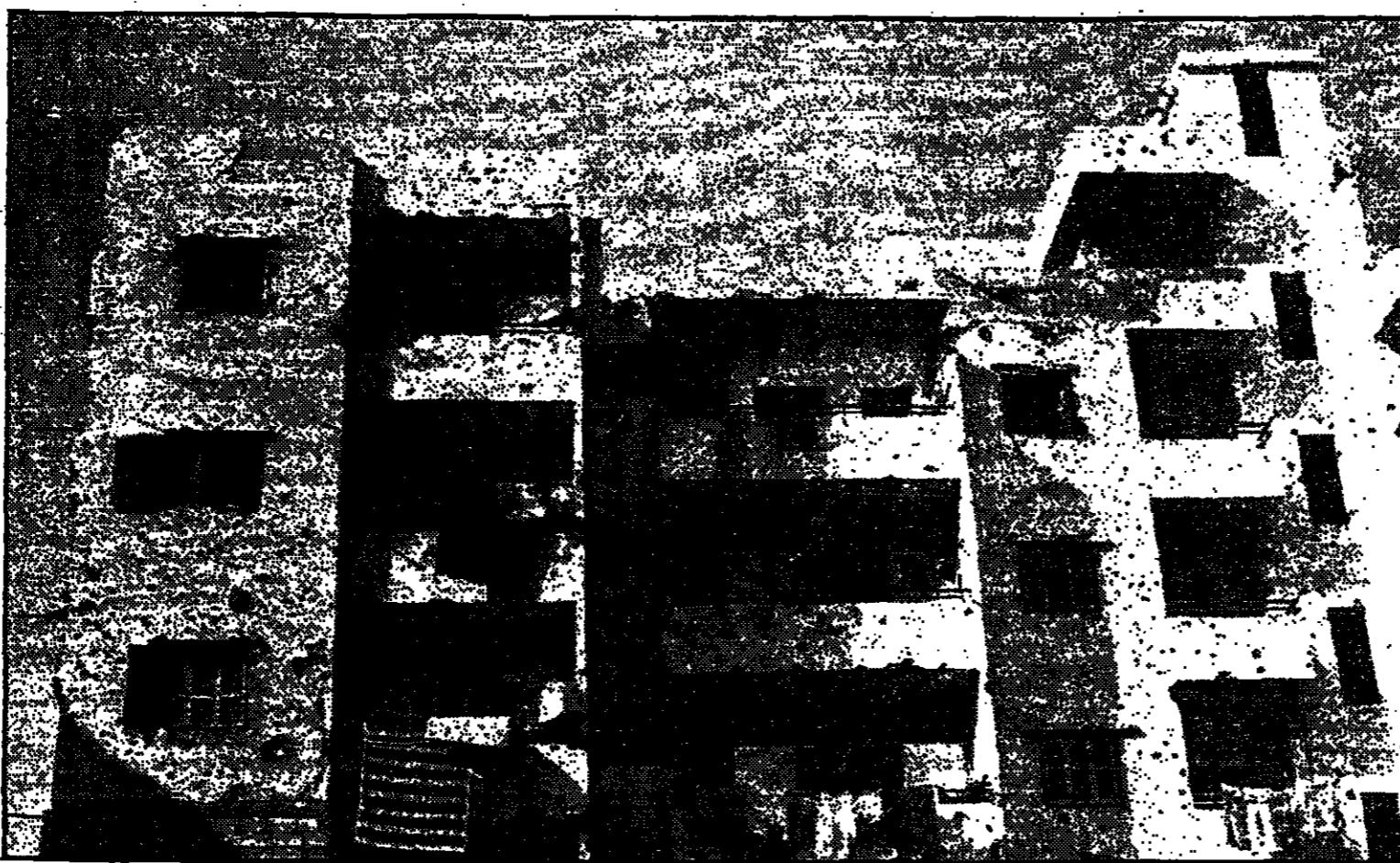
Sitting in the shade and looking out over the Mediterranean it is tempting to forget the ruined hotels and the troops of the Arab peace-keeping forces manning the checkpoint only 100 yards away.

Eastward along the coast the scene quickly deteriorates. The bar quarter, where prostitutes used to entice foreign visitors, is largely gutted. Astonishingly, some of the bars which escaped destruction are still open.

From there the streetscape is one of buildings with their innards ripped out by rocket fire, shattered neon signs, lamp posts leaning from walls and twisted, rusty metal. Cars pass through the district, but for several hundred yards there is no other sign of human activity.

Near the Place des Martyrs, named after Lebans' victims of Ottomans and but an appropriate name for today, are the first tentative signs of people getting back to business. A few ground-floor premises are being restored in otherwise deserted streets.

The silence is suddenly broken by sounds from the fruit and vegetable market in streets running off the square. The Place des Martyrs, where the Phalangist militia launched a key offensive during the war, is slowly regaining back to business. Armed Syrian soldiers are among the most conspicuous



A block of flats in the badly damaged Beirut suburb of Shiyah, through which the front line ran during the civil war.

buyers from stalls set up in the square.

Continuing on to the Rue de Syrie, and the feeling of being in an ordinary Middle Eastern city grows. Shoe-blacks squat along the crowded, colonnaded promenade in front of the bookshops and stationers.

Heading east, you notice the churches. One, with the

prohibition "Défense d'officier" prominently displayed on its walls, had been

desecrated not by bulls but by gunfire. Its people were scattered and its cross leaning at an eccentric angle.

This war was about far more than religious differences, but easily applied labels became matters of life and death, and many Muslims and Christians were driven to seek refuge in areas where they could feel safe.

Tel al-Zaatar is perhaps

Many Muslims are still

in the saddle scene in and around the Lebanese capital. To many this is no longer the place for the Palestinians. Each faction in the conflict was guilty of atrocities.

The devastation at Tel al-Zaatar has not wiped out all evidence that people lived there before being killed or dispersed by the besieging Phalangist forces, whose strategy demanded the elimination of this enclave. The camp was surrounded for seven months before it fell in August last year.

The sense of separation is

marked if you take the road through east Beirut to the wartime Phalangist strongholds of Hamra and Achrafieh. Some middle-class people, some

scorn on the idea that they

should not move freely anywhere in the city.

Nevertheless, checkpoints

remained by the besieging

Lebanese and Christians most

and outsiders were told that

if they had been around

earlier in the year, they

would soon notice the general improvement.

To return to the tradition-

ally mixed area of Ras Beirut is to feel a more relaxed atmosphere. The Hamra district has the well-

stocked clothes boutiques,

shoe and book shops, ex-

quisitely displayed choc-

olate and flowers, and taste-

fully furnished apartments.

In spite of rigorous censor-

ship it is still the Arab city

where views may be ex-

changed more freely than

any other, and the one where

for the time being at least, westerners feel most at home.

D. T.

## Uncertainty looms over return of banks

by Faris Glubb

Just over a year has passed since the Lebanese war ended officially with the Riyadh Arab summit agreement—a year which apart from occasional incidents has witnessed a slow and gradual return to normality. Like most other sectors of the economy, Lebanon's banking is in the process of recovering from 19 months of fierce fighting, but the day of full recovery is still some way off.

The war brought upheavals to the banking sector, particularly because the head offices of almost all Lebanon's banks were concentrated in the city centre on the dividing line between the two opposing sides. Some of the fiercest battles of the war were fought out in this area. Thanks to the massive stone buildings in Riad al-Solh Street, the "street of the banks", most were able to resume operations from their head offices as from January, after being closed for several months.

During the war, a number of banks opened new head offices or branches in fairly safe areas away from the battle lines. The division of the country into two sectors resulted in several banks establishing a new branch on each side of the dividing line: in east Beirut or Jounieh to serve clients in the Conservative-held sector, and in west Beirut for clients on the other side. Now that these branches have opened, they are expected to remain in operation. One hundred and ten new branches were set up in the war.

Bankers in Beirut, both

Lebanese and foreign, ties such as local financial skill, efficient communications, comfort, recreation and education of expatriates. But the big question is how soon Lebanon can return to normality and lasting stability.

Most foreign banks would far sooner operate from their own homes. A number of Lebanese banks moved abroad, opening branches or offices in other Middle East countries or Europe.

Paris appears to have been the most popular location. Seven Beirut-based banks opened branches or representative offices there: Banque Libano-Française, the European Bank for the Middle East, the Mediterranean Bank, the Arab Islamic Bank (Overseas), Banque Tad-Credit Lyonnais, Crédit Maritime and the Arab Finance Corporation.

France's policy was to encourage these "emigrant banks" which enjoyed considerable success. Their combined operations covered more than 60 countries. Other Lebanese banks held opened offices in London, Zurich and cities closer to home, such as Nicosia.

The Lebanese Bankers' Association listed a total of 77 banks operating in Lebanon before the war. Of these 34 were Lebanon-owned, four were specialized medium and long-term banks, 22 were registered as Lebanese. But with majority foreign ownership, five were non-Lebanese Arab institutions and 12 were branches or regional head offices of foreign banks. In addition, there were 65 representative offices.

It is still not clear how many of the foreign regional head offices, branches and representative offices intend to resume full operations. Some are already beginning to do so. The British Bank of the Middle East, although its Beirut head office was severely damaged and looted, is determined to stay on, but not in its former premises in the city centre. Before the war it was the third largest operating bank in Lebanon.

In fact, the Lebanese banking sector now has excess liquidity. The former president of the Lebanese Banks' Association, Mr Joseph Geagea, estimates the surplus liquidity of the commercial banks at £Leb1,200m, in addition to a further £Leb600m in reserves at the Central Bank.

Most forgotten banks have been studying the possibility of resuming their normal activity in Lebanon, but many are still adopting a wait-and-see attitude. Certainly, no other city in the Middle East has yet emerged to rival pre-war Beirut in terms of geographical position and facil-

ties such as local financial skill, efficient communications, comfort, recreation and education of expatriates.

But the big question is how soon Lebanon can return to normality and lasting stability.

So far, however, the banks have generally been cautious on reconstruction financing, preferring to advance credit mainly for import operations rather than construction projects. The Government has tried to mop up some of this excess liquidity by issuing government bonds, which will help to finance this year's £Leb300m budget deficit. But bankers preferred to buy only those bonds with short maturities of one or two years. The three-year maturity bonds were thus omitted from the second issue.

The Government has encouraged the banking sector to stimulate the banking sector by a number of measures. New specialist banks for housing and agriculture have been set up, with 50 per cent of their capital provided by the public sector. Each bank has

capital of £Leb50m. A banking free zone has been set up, with interest on non-residents' deposits exempt from income tax—an idea first advocated by Dr al-Hoss some years ago.

In addition, a moratorium on the establishment of new banks (imposed after the 1966 Inter-Bank crash) has been lifted. Recent legislation gives the Central Bank complete discretion in the granting of new bank licences. New banks are required to have £Leb15m minimum capital (compared with £Leb3m before) of which £Leb4.5m must be deposited interest-free with the treasury (or £Leb7.5m if the bank is a branch of a foreign one).

The Government's aim has been to create the legislative framework necessary for a reinvigoration of the banking sector so that it can play its role in post-war reconstruction. The banks' response to this task has been slow, as have other aspects of Lebanon's recovery.

The best way to speed things up is clearly to remove political uncertainties by resolving the South Lebanon problem and preventing the outbreak of another Arab-Israel war.

The Prime Minister, Dr Selim al-Hoss (who, like many factors outside President Sarkis, was a

## The nation most in need of Geneva talks

The omens do not look identity of Lebanon. Was it achieved without a unique, Maronite-dominated Syrian military influence? or was it part of a wider Arab world? or a continued question mark over the genuineness of Lebanon's independence?

The Lebanese Government commands respect for its integrity. The honesty of the present Cabinet, only one member of which had any previous experience in politics, is considered unprecedented. But this integrity is not yet supported by a credible Lebanese army. Take away the Syrians and one is left with the still unrecruited factions who fought in the civil war.

Among the most deprived identity of Lebanon. Was it achieved without a unique, Maronite-dominated Syrian military influence? or was it part of a wider Arab world? or a continued question mark over the genuineness of Lebanon's independence?

Among the most deprived of the Lebanese were the Shiites. Many of them left South Lebanon to become slum dwellers in the civil war.

Compared with theocratic regimes in the rest of the Arab world Lebanon has had weak governments. The easy-going atmosphere appealed to Westerners and to Arabs used to more restricted societies.

Before the Palestinians were effectively and militarily organized as a force inside Lebanon, Beirut governments had some scope for an affective internal Palestinian settlement while asserting their authority over the Palestinian camps. But the only Arab government to take the Palestinians head-on at home was that of King Hussein in Jordan in September 1970.

The political complexities of Lebanon made for a very different situation. There was neither a single strong state in the region; sometimes a country was centrally controlled by a single ruler about the scope for United States leverage on Israel.

The tendency is to focus on the PLO as the key power in the land. As one government source put it: "The Syrians are eager to see the situation in the south settled. The kind of pressure Syria and the other Arab countries put on the PLO may be influenced, in my opinion, by the process of Geneva.

If any single state in the Middle East needs the reconvening of the Geneva conference it is Lebanon because this is the country where the greatest pressures are concentrated. But Beirut is the capital with the least power to take any initiative. These were not purely confessionals, but the most deprived people were Muslims, and the Christians held a disproportionate amount of wealth and political power.

This conclusion is not open to statistical proof. The last census was held in 1972, but for years there has been no doubt that the Muslims formed the larger community and that they have been politically under-represented.

One Western diplomat assessed President Assad's chief priority as the restoration of an independent, stable Lebanon. The dilemma is how stability can be

D. T.

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# at reporters don't report

administrators and other professionals who provide the pool of specialists on whom foreign business based in Lebanon has traditionally relied? Where but in Beirut can the experienced businessman expect his secretary to be fluent in the three commercial languages of the Middle East, in addition to possessing the full complement of office skills?

Businessmen headquartered in Beirut or passing through before the war enjoyed this and other amenities which made it the businessman's capital of the Middle East. Most of these amenities either survived or have been resuscitated. Foremost among them was the free-enterprising spirit that has always characterized a nation which, bereft of raw materials and agricultural riches, for thousands of years has thrived on a fine-tuned instinct for individual initiative, innovation, small profits from high turnover, and the capacity to render a full range of services.

#### Money in the Bank

A measure of Lebanon's speedy return to business-as-usual is the presence in Beirut today of 80 banks (pre-war total: 23) among which are 40 international bank representative offices. Strict banking laws guarantee deposits up to L.L.30,000 and require that banks maintain large cash reserves. Traditional banking secrecy is rigidly enforced, as well as Lebanon's absolute freedom of exchange and lack of currency restrictions of any kind, including the import and export of bullion. Since the war, two new laws, the Foreign Investment Guarantee law and the Free-Zone Banking law, were enacted to provide further facilities for international banking and business transactions. The solidity and stability of the Lebanese pound reflects the fundamental soundness of the banking system and the Lebanese economy in general; despite a temporary dip in value of the pound during the fighting, it has, for the past decade, remained almost constant relative to the dollar, and its backing is considerably better—more than 100 percent coverage in gold and hard currencies.

#### Bed and Board

Whether he's carrying sterling, francs or marks, the traveler to the Middle East these days gets more for his money in Beirut than in other countries of the Middle East. Even with the destruction of 4 major hotels, there are more than 2,000 rooms of first and de-luxe classes in Beirut alone. The rates are one-half to one-third those of similar accommodations in the area, the service more efficient and the amenities superior. The same is true of family accommodations for businessmen headquartered in Beirut. Fifteen hotels offer convention and conference facilities.

The cosmopolitan composition of Beirut's population—among which people of all races, religions and nations are welcome—has spawned a gastronomer's paradise of specialty restaurants, many of them clustered in or near the hotels. The Lebanese cuisine is renowned as one of the best and most diversified in the world. There are also Chinese, French, Austrian, Japanese, German, Rumanian, Spanish, Armenian, Indian, Pakistani, Italian and Swiss restaurants. Beirut boasts no strictly British restaurants, although the deficiency is more than supplied—with the best of spirits—at typical English pubs, some lovingly pieced together from imported originals.

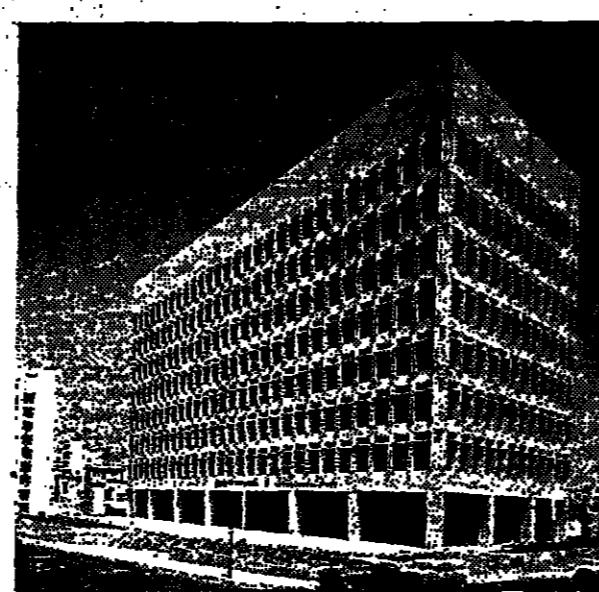
#### Alexander, Caesar and Others

Lebanon has, of course, its own originals, and their profusion in small compass is one of the main attractions of this tiny country, and one which the transient war fortunately left untouched. Baalbek, the largest and most magnificent survival of the Roman Empire, lies just beyond the mountains which shield Beirut on the east. Phoenician Sidon and Tyre to the south of the capital, Tripoli—one of the Crusader strongholds—to the north, are all within 90 minutes by car. These relics of the past have made Lebanon a favorite hunting ground for those who find romance in their own heritage. For the heritage of the West is found, in truth, to a remarkable degree in this land. In the north, above Tripoli, still tower the Cedars of Lebanon from whose groves were hewn timbers of the long ships of the pharaohs and the temple of Solomon. In later ages, the lush coastline echoed to the tread of the armies of Alexander, Caesar, Richard the Lionhearted and Saladin, and, at the Dog River, just outside ancient Byblos, conquerors and kings, spanning three thousand years, carved their memorials in solid rock, where they can still be seen today, legends in stone which encapsulate so much of Western history and tradition.

Lebanon's legends soar beyond its mountains of stone, and the men who chiseled their testimonials upon them, to the far reaches of classical mythology. According to the Phoenicians, Adonis was a handsome youth beloved of Aphrodite who died of a wound received from a boar during the chase. The anemone flower sprang from his blood and the Phoenicians believed that its appearance each spring symbolized the renewal of life, after the cruel winter which represented the death of Adonis.

For the Lebanese today, the anemones are in bloom.

And in the words of the Lebanese poet and philosopher, Gibran Khalil Gibran: "Spring is beautiful everywhere, but it is most beautiful in Lebanon..."



U.S.



A country picks itself up in the ruinous aftermath of civil war. Above: students at the American University of Beirut, which, although coming under fire, managed to remain open almost without interruption. Left: Syrian soldiers shopping in the Place des Martyrs. Top left: ruined buildings in Bab Edriss in the traditional commercial centre of Beirut.

## War sentences last free Arab press to death

by Atel Sultan

Twenty months of bloody and sectarian civil war have devastated Lebanon's economy, society and politics. But to most Lebanese and other Arabs and indeed to many foreign reporters to whom Beirut was a blessing for its freedom, the war has led to what is in effect the death of the last and only relatively free Arab press.

London has always been envied for its 11 morning and evening dailies catering for a variety of political views, education and interests. In Beirut, a city of fewer

than one million people and a capital of a country with a population of only three million, no less than 40 newspapers in Arabic, English, French and other languages appear every day. Total circulation never exceeded more than 200,000 copies but nevertheless the Lebanese press has been rivalled only by the highly professional Egyptian press, which is more widely read, though subject to state ownership and at times to vigorous censorship.

During the turbulent civil war, the Lebanese press found itself caught up in the turmoil of a rapidly changing political and economic situation.

Peace was restored in December 1976 only after 35,000-strong Arab peace-keeping forces (mainly Syrian) had marched into Beirut. Soon after Syria had established a strong foothold in a still divided city, two censorship offices were set up. Beirut, one in the Arab-controlled east and the other in the leftist-dominated west. Foreign correspondents were to submit their dispatches for approval before sending them and offenders were to be fined or imprisoned for up to three years.

Exactly what the censor considers "offensive material" was never made clear officially, but the Director of Public Security was given the power to ban whatever he wanted. Topics considered likely to arouse suspicion or sensitivity, or calling for Lebanon's partition and those seen as damaging to security, economy or foreign relations topped the censor's list. Blank spaces frequently appear in many of the Beirut dailies.

Even before censorship began to lift, some of the restrictions imposed on January 3, foreign correspondents, for instance, were now required to submit a copy of their reports after sending them and were further exempted from a newspaper's fee of about \$2.20 a page of copy. Correspondents were, however, asked to maintain "restraint" and "to bear in mind Lebanon's situation".

The censorship essentially amounted to a ban on news about the continuing fighting in the south, the only part which remains largely out of Syrian control, and on opposing Palestinian activists, particularly Mr Yassir Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) chairman, who fell out of favour in Damascus soon after Syrian troops controlled Beirut. Further consolidation in Syria's strength in Lebanon and its subsequent greater accommodation with other Arab regimes have led to further relaxation of censorship.

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News and pictures of Mr Arafat are frequently found on the front pages. The Syrian bureaux are controlled with editorials rather than straight news.

Remarkably, at the height of the civil war and with many of Beirut's dailies

magazine were taken over by the serious shortage in entered Beirut and on July 20 this year the newspaper 20 mln. years, the newspaper entered Beirut dailies such as Al-Nahar, Al-Ahram, Al-Ahram, and Al-Safir, were about to be taken over by the privately owned. But the proliferation of newspapers in the city has been controlled by a 1953 law which forbade the issue of new press licences. Some owners of publications which disappeared during the civil war still find a lucrative market in selling their licences.

Newspapers such as Al-Ahram, capitalizing on the thirst for news during the war, prospered in east Beirut as people were risking their lives to buy a newspaper. Al-Nahar, and Al-Safir, located in the relatively more peaceful Al-Hamra district, were among the best in reporting the daily developments of the civil war and even Arab and international news.

One leading daily, the English language Daily Star, housed in the badly damaged commercial district, was less fortunate, its offices were destroyed and it has since disappeared.

Mr Edouard Saab, Al-Nahar's quality French language L'Oriente Le Jour's editor, was one of the early victims of the war.

The press clampdown has not stopped at advance censorship. Since last July, a tougher penalty for reporters and editors who publish "false or inaccurate" information was introduced, and the press laws were amended so that newspapers were required to submit their accounts twice a year for official scrutiny.

Publications such as being subsidized by foreign states and political parties were to be suspended or closed.

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## Electronics will help to regain place in sun

by John Rizq

The importance being given to telecommunications in Lebanon's reconstruction drive was illustrated by the announcement last month of plans for a 5,000-line electronic telex centre to come on stream in mid-1979.

Before the war Beirut offered possibly the best international communications of any Arab capital.

But the telecommunications revolution which has since swept the Gulf oil-producing countries has set new standards which Beirut

must fight hard to attain if it hopes to re-emerge as a leading Middle East business centre.

The authorities' determined efforts, led by Mr Farid Rafael, the Minister of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones (PTT), have already produced tangible results.

Immediately after the war, making a telephone call was an adventure which often ended in failure. But Beirut's main telephone exchange, badly damaged during the fighting, has

been repaired with the technical help of L. M. Ericsson of Sweden, so that now about 70 per cent of the capital's 175,000 telephone lines are functioning.

Mr Rafael has promised to have 80,000 new telephone lines available in June, 1978. The postal service has also sprung back with remarkable vigour. Although only

these, some 15,000 are for a limited parcel post service, mail is sorted and distributed quickly and efficiently, and telegrams remain a useful alternative to telex.

At present the system is far from perfect. The number of telephone and telex lines is still inadequate, and the lack of equipment and maintenance over the past two years has caused breakdowns, inevitable. But the considerable

progress made and the communication is provided by the recently reopened drive to rehabilitate communications, have surprised even the sceptics and shown that the PTT is able to live up to its promises. If it executes its newest plans quickly, it will do much to add to Beirut's undeniably attractive as a place to do business with the Middle East.

At the end of the fighting the author is on the staff of the Middle East Economic Digest.

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# Battered economy comes bouncing back

by Samir Makdisi

The economic impact of the 1975-76 Lebanese war manifested itself in diverse ways. Various economic sectors existed, suffered considerable losses through damage to plant, the "national economy" was sad equipment. Some companies basically reunited and commercial banks closed down, confidence began to be restored. Banking resumed almost immediately and industry, agriculture and commerce have since restarted on a substantial scale. This has occurred despite the fact that no final political agreement between the various parties to the conflict has yet been reached and the promised foreign aid has so far materialized only on a limited scale.

The damage sustained by industry was not as heavy as had been originally feared, and it is estimated 1974 to £Leb8,000m at the end of 1976.

The damage sustained by property and the forced exodus of a sizable number (not about three quarters of

of people from their homes). The partitioning of the country during the war led to a similar division of the national economy, but fairly quickly, economic links between various parts continued to exist. Various economic sectors existed, suffered considerable losses through damage to plant, the "national economy" was sad equipment. Some companies basically reunited and commercial banks closed down, confidence began to be restored. Banking resumed almost immediately and industry, agriculture and commerce have since restarted on a substantial scale. This has occurred despite the fact that no final political agreement between the various parties to the conflict has yet been reached and the promised foreign aid has so far materialized only on a limited scale.

The damage sustained by industry was not as heavy as had been originally feared, and it is estimated 1974 to £Leb8,000m at the end of 1976.

Lebanese industrial capacity has remained intact. Similarly, foreign trade activities £5,760m at the end of 1974 have been expanding at 11.7 per cent of imports) to £Leb6,610m at the end of the official data indicate that 1976. Converted into American dollars at prevailing market rates this would indicate a very limited drop.

At current prices, if the present level continues, the annual value of the year's exports may approach that of the previous year. In real terms, the expansion would be more limited because of "inflation". It would nevertheless continue to be substantial.

Perhaps the most impressive record achieved by the Lebanese economy concerns issues to be in the financial sector. According to IMF data, total bank deposits changed slightly over the period, from £Leb8,200m at the end of 1974 to £Leb8,100m at the end of July 1977. Since then the level has changed little.

The various factors underlying the Lebanese balance of payments cannot be discussed here. Suffice to state that Lebanon has continuously since the Second World War maintained a floating rate system. Similarly, Lebanon has boosted confidence in its currency and banking system by maintaining a free foreign exchange system even during the recent war.

Some observers may ascribe the positive aspects of the country's economic performance to the resiliency of the national economy and the enterprising spirit of the private sector. There are, however, some negative aspects to the economic performance. These relate to long-standing issues which have been accentuated by the 1975-76 war, and to issues which stem directly from the war and have yet to be coped with.

With effectively. In the last and still require government economic-social programme to be effective. In other words, it is the short-term issues. For example, they have introduced legislation which restored working relationships between various economic groups. They also restored population dislocations have economic expansion which has yet to be settled and labour mobility between certain regions of the country is not yet fully assured.

The pace of arranging credit facilities to affected enterprises has been slow, though a more concerted effort seems to have been made in the past few weeks. These relate to long-standing issues which have been accentuated by the 1975-76 war, and to issues which stem directly from the war and have yet to be coped with.

The present Government has tried to cope with the socio-economic content of the short-term issues. For example, they have introduced legislation which restored working relationships between various economic groups. They also restored population dislocations have economic expansion which has yet to be settled and labour mobility between certain regions of the country is not yet fully assured.

A corollary of this basic is manifested in the coexistence of a vigorous private sector and a lagging public sector. While long-term planning has not yet been sufficiently initiated, the necessary institutional framework for this process has been set up. Early in 1977 a Reconstruction and Development Board was established, and given wide powers to help to formulate and coordinate economic planning, in cooperation with the various ministries and financial planning.

As yet this path has not been clearly defined. Nor has there been a coordinated effort to make the public sector assume its role in the process of reconstruction and development despite the recent government measures. The reasons for this are mostly of a non-economic nature.

At the same time, on the basis of this year's economic record, and if political stability is assured, the Lebanese economy is capable of responding to challenges, particularly if the public sector plays its role competently. Indeed lie as much in the political field. One problem of course is that economic and political forces interact.

The author is chairman of the department of economics, American University of Beirut.

## Only money can heal the battle scars

by Faris Glubb

reopened in September, it of the destruction of the central markets, where intense competition had kept prices low. Lebanese economists have listed the loss of the central markets as a big factor in Lebanon's inflation.

The ancient central market, a Lebanon version of Billingsgate, Smithfield, Portobello Road and Petticoat Lane all rolled into one, were almost totally destroyed. Many shopkeepers who formerly had premises in the markets are operating from wooden stalls, selling a wide variety of goods from fish to television sets, in temporary markets in various parts of the city.

Those who were wise enough to remove their stocks from their original shops in time count themselves lucky. Many small traders have lost everything, and had to start again from scratch. Almost every section of the population has lost something as a result

of the destruction of the central markets, where intense competition had kept prices low. Lebanese economists have listed the loss of the central markets as a big factor in Lebanon's inflation.

Along the seafront, the Holiday Inn, the incomplete Hilton, the historic St Georges Hotel, the Phoenicia and several other hotels were either destroyed or so badly damaged as to need almost total rebuilding.

Beirut port suffered the destruction of most of its buildings, warehouses and equipment. It was able to reopen in January this year, at a reduced capacity because of the lack of storage facilities for goods.

Beirut's main industrial zone at Mukalla was also located near an important battleground—Tel al-Zaatar, which used to supply much of the labour force for its factories. Mr Fouad Abi Saleh, president of the

Lebanese industrialists' association, has estimated the industrial sector's direct losses (destruction or looting of equipment, stocks, buildings, and so on) at £Leb 1,500m. A team of experts from the Arab League's Industrial Development Centre has assessed Lebanon's industry's direct losses at about 15 per cent of its invested capital, although some consider the figure too low.

Lebanon's indirect econ-

omic losses may be consider-

ably greater than the direct and visible ones. According to Dr Muhammad Atallah, chairman of the Development and Reconstruction Council, the cost of Lebanon's physical economic reconstruction, as well as the support that the state budget will need during the reconstruction period, will be £Leb15,000m.

The indirect losses, such as the almost total absence of tourist business this year,

are harder to estimate, and will go on accumulating for a while, until Lebanon's present relative calm becomes lasting stability. Some economists calculate that the country's invisible losses, in terms of business lost by all sectors, have reached £Leb18,000m.

In the light of previous growth rates that the various sectors of the economy had been maintaining, that figure is a plausible one.

The Lebanese economy

has been geared mainly to services, in particular tourism, banking and transit trade, with the oil states of the Arabian Peninsula as the main clients. Much of Lebanon's foreign exchange came from Saudi, Qatar, Kuwait and Abu Dhabi who went for their summer holidays to enjoy the coolness of the mountain resorts and Beirut's famous entertainments—and at the same time to benefit from Lebanon's

1973, £Leb1,550m in 1974 and £Leb1,425m in 1975. This year's export figures have been showing a steady upward curve, from £Leb49m in January to £Leb124m in March and £Leb225m in June.

However, 97 per cent of exports in the first half of 1977 went to other Arab countries, compared with 85 per cent in 1973 and 82 per cent in 1974. Lebanon has been losing the European market, which took 12 per cent of its exports in 1974. Regaining Arab clients has been relatively easy, because of the rapid growth of consumption in the oil states.

Lebanon's visible exports have recovered rapidly. In the first six months of this year they totalled £Leb602m, according to Beirut's Chamber of Commerce and Industry. That compares with £Leb50m for the whole of 1976, the worst year of the war. Pre-war totals were £Leb1,233m in 1973, £Leb1,425m in 1975. This year's export figures have been showing a steady upward curve, from £Leb49m in January to £Leb124m in March and £Leb225m in June.

The oil states have not shown a willingness to invest in the scale Lebanon needs for its reconstruction. Some have given relief aid and there has been some development and reconstruction aid from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait (the latter's private sector is also investing in a new luxury hotel on the seafloor).

But in general, the response of the richer Arab states to Lebanon's reconstruction needs has been disappointing. The Lebanese are becoming aware that the main effort of reconstruction must be theirs, and that a willingness to bear the burden provided security is guaranteed.

In many ways the economy

has stood up remarkably well to its ordeal. The Lebanese

loss may prove to be of skills. According to the Beirut Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 6 per cent of the work force were killed in the war and 13 per cent emigrated. The emigrants included a high proportion of skilled people like doctors, architects and engineers, who may prove hard to replace rapidly.

## Waiters wait and see

by Denis Taylor

The tourist authorities are adopting what Mr Habib Letayf, of the Lebanon National Tourism Council calls "a defensive position". He describes the task facing the industry as that of "reassessing the image which the war gave to Lebanon", and says the Lebanese should be more confident about inviting holidaymakers back in 1978.

In normal times it was difficult to decide just who was a tourist in Lebanon. Lists of foreign arrivals include residents and students in Lebanon (except Syrians), and do not reveal how many times expatriates living in the country left and returned.

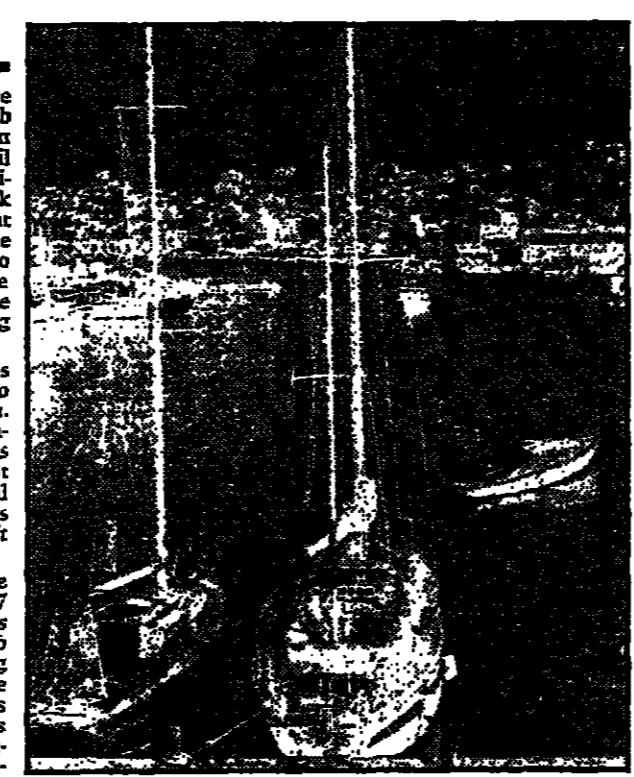
The figure for 1974, the last pre-war year, was 553,537 from non-Arab countries and 896,203 from Arab states except Syria, giving altogether 1,449,940. The number of overnight stays in Beirut hotels was 2,307,122, again with no indication of how long individuals stayed and without distinction between businessmen and tourists. This year the number of guests arriving at Beirut hotels ranged from 4,275 in January to 13,307 in August. The corresponding figures for 1974 were 43,891 and 67,022.

There were 41,182 overnight stays in July 1976, a room occupancy rate of 24.5 per cent and 35.7 per cent respectively.

Lebanon traditionally attracted oilmen and other expatriate staff working in the Gulf, who wanted to escape for a leisurely tour. Whatever the authorities say, they cannot hide the fact that the Gulf Arabs also spent a few days from the rigours of the climate.

Travelling in the northern part of the country is fairly straightforward. The main difficulty can be the slowing down of road traffic at checkpoints manned by Syrian soldiers of the Arab peacekeeping forces. They

figures are certainly scarcer on the streets of the capital than they were before the war. Some of the best known hotels in Beirut, notably the



Yachts at Jounieh, the resort north of Beirut which acted as the Christian capital during the civil war.

ference delegates to use bags under the statue celebrating wine at the entrance to Zahle.

At the same time, he recognized that Lebanon is pleasant to visit the superb Roman temples at Baalbek now that the site is so uncrowded. A guide said that most visitors were Lebanese, foreigners and Syrians.

When I went into the main hotel in Baalbek for a drink on a recent Sunday, the staff almost swept me into the dining room, so eager were they for customers. Only two people were having lunch there.

Air travel to Lebanon has recovered substantially in the 12 months since Beirut airport was reopened. It had been closed for five months after a Middle East Airlines Boeing 747 was hit by a shell on June 27 1976, killing the captain and fatally wounding the first officer.

MEA has restored practically all its pre-war routes, and the average number of passengers for July, August and September was 92,000—87 per cent of the figure for

the comparable period of 1974. The average load factor last summer was 77 per cent.

Lebanon still has 3,000 first-class hotel beds, more idyllically calm, and nothing could on the surface be more peaceful than the East put together", Mr Leray said. His council farms and vineyards of the Bekaa Valley. Only occasionally, tourists from

the rest of the world, are a reminder of the civil war, such as the Government, died during organized groups and con-

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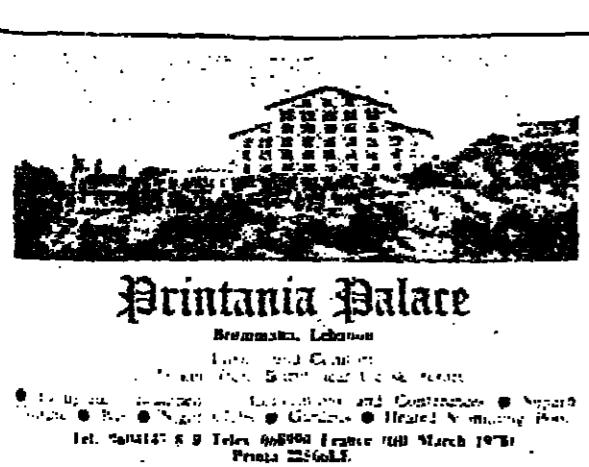
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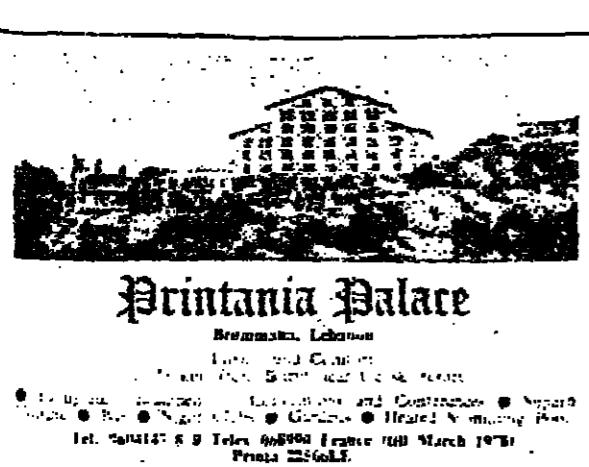
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## Stock Exchange Prices

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<b>BRITISH FUNDS</b>															
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<b>1976/77</b>															
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## Montefibre reduces pay to 40 pc of total

From John Earle  
Rome, Nov 21

Montefibre, the chemical fibres manufacturer and one of the heaviest losers in the troubled Montedison group, is unable to meet its wages bill and, according to a company official, will pay only 40 per cent of November salaries.

The company already has 6,000 of its 26,000 workforce in Italy suspended under the government's Cassa Integrazione or relief fund scheme, whereby workers receive approximately 80 per cent of wages for a limited period.

It is among an increasing number of companies which are finding that the fall in production this autumn is resulting in manpower surpluses.

Ital sider, the big state-owned steelmaker, wishes to put 6,500 workers into Cassa Integrazione, 3,300 of them at the uneconomic Bagnoli steelworks near Naples, while a scarcity of new orders threatens to swell the 500 already suspended at the Alcantarini shipyards at Monfalcone, near Trieste.

Montefibre sees no further prospects of employment for its 6,000 surplus workers and wishes to shed them permanently.

Two weeks ago this seemed possible when the government decided not to go over financial responsibility for them under a clause of the new law on industrial reconversion, but the unions objected.

Montefibre lost 99,900m lire (£66.6m) last year.

## Plant switch may follow union refusal to boost Rover output

By Clifford Webb

Mr Derek Whittaker, managing director of Leyland Cars, has lost patience with shop stewards at Rover and Triumph who are refusing to cooperate in a £250m project to double output of the Land-Rover and Range Rover.

With European and Japanese competitors threatening Leyland's world leadership in four-wheel-drive vehicles, he is considering replacing the present proposals for expansion at existing plants in Solihull and Coventry with a new factory on a green field site.

The possible choice of site has not been disclosed but the company said that it does not favour expansion in areas away from its traditional Midland base.

Its Merseyside plant, which

Triumph Speke near Liverpool, has one of the worst labour relations records in the motor industry and is now shut by a three-weeks-old strike which has stopped production of the TR7 sports car and the Dolomite assembled at Coventry.

Mr Whittaker's tough line is intended to bring the Rover-Triumph shop stewards into line and also to ward off mounting opposition to Leyland's participation machinery.

The Transport and General Workers' Union's biggest branch, Oxford 5/60, has voted to withdraw and is seeking an early meeting of shop stewards from all Leyland's 34 plants to urge similar action.

Shop stewards at Solihull and Coventry refused to join participation in the first place. Until they do Mr Whittaker has said

## Strike dashes Vauxhall profit hope

By Our Midland Industrial Correspondent

Vauxhall Motors' hopes of achieving its first profits after five consecutive loss-making years have been dashed by the most serious strike in its recent history.

By last night the five-week-old dispute, which has halted all car, van and truck production, had cost the General Motors subsidiary over 27,000 vehicles worth £75 at showroom prices.

Some 20,000 men are laid off without pay, and losses are mounting at the rate of £2.8m for each working day.

Only four months ago Mr Bob Price, the American man-

aging director, reported a £2m net profit for the first six months of the year, compared with net losses of £1.5m in 1976, £13m in 1975, and £8m in 1974. It reflected the slow but promising recovery which has followed his arrival from Australia nearly four years ago.

Now, damaging the now backlog will be tests on the outcome of a meeting of 800 skilled workers on strike at the company's Ellesmere Port plant. So far they have ignored a return to work instruction issued last week by the national executive of their union—the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

Vauxhall's offer of an extra 3.5 per cent for skilled grades—or top of a general 10 per cent wage increase—has already persuaded 3,000 skilled men at Luton and Dunstable to end a similar strike. But without the components supplied by Ellersmere, no factories can re-open.

The strikers are demanding a written guarantee from the company that they will be upgraded before they return to work.

Vauxhall cannot make this concession without upsetting groups of disgruntled employees who are only being persuaded to stay their hand until a joint working party has completed a review of the whole problem of skilled men's wage differentials.

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Vauxhall's offer of an extra

## Honeywell regroups UK marketing divisions

Reorganized marketing structure and the prospect of a record year's business in 1977 were announced by Honeywell Information Systems yesterday.

Mr Russ Hargreaves, managing director, said that from January, computer marketing would be grouped in three divisions—large mainframes, medium-sized and small mainframes, and minicomputers and terminals.

Formation of the minicomputer division, under Mr Vince Gagaro, had already been announced. The two new groups are the data processing division—handling large systems—headed by Mr René Berger, and the general systems division, headed by Mr Jim Duncan, and covering small and medium-sized systems.

Honeywell Information Systems would exceed a turnover of £50m this year, Mr Long said. For the first nine months, turnover was up 20 per cent, shipment up 30 per cent and turnover up 34 per cent.

Over the next four years the company's target was to double

### Computer news

its level of business in the United Kingdom. The 1977 growth had been balanced across the complete range of products.

**Gamma progress**  
Sustained growth both centrally and via the setting up of associated joint-venture companies was reported last week by Gamma Associates, the Nottingham-based systems house. Specializing in systems incorporating Digital Equipment Corporation minicomputers, Gamma aims to show a £2.5m turnover this year.

The central company has four main fields of activity under Dr George Coggan, managing director. These are commercial turnkey systems, financial systems, technical and industrial systems, and bureau services.

Gamma's philosophy was based on three concepts, Dr Coggan said. First, to regard the DEC PDP range of minicomputers as the "Model T

Kenneth Owen

Ford" of commercial computing, offering effective data-processing at a lower cost to a wide spectrum of users.

Secondly, to realize that the bureau business would swing from batch to timesharing operations. Thirdly, to set up a number of joint-venture companies as well as to expand the existing business.

The joint-venture approach represented Gamma's main trend in development. Sir Denning Pearson, the former chairman of Rolls-Royce and now chairman of Gamma Associates, said: "The joint-venture has been a success. We bought their DEC computers via Gamma; both sides benefited from the volume discounts obtained.

Next year, Dr Coggan indicated, Gamma was likely to look to Europe and the United States for its further growth, including new joint ventures.

## Breaking the ice with Russia keeps us growing

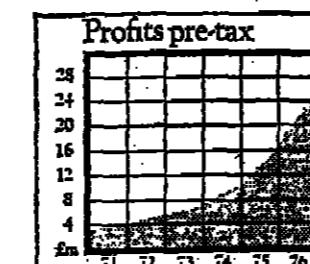
Right: BTR Silvertown Limited make cutless bearings for a wide variety of applications such as marine pumps and turbines.

Far right: The Yermak does not ride up on the ice and break it with her weight. Instead she charges head-on and levered the ice apart with controlled lists to port and starboard.

The Russian icebreaker Yermak uses BTR cutless bearings to take the strain as she smashes her way through the Arctic ice. The increasing penetration of specialist markets for products such as this is helping to maintain BTR's dynamic growth rate of the past eight years.

We supply thousands of other products to the engineering, transportation, energy and mining industries worldwide. Vital components for cars, trains and planes. Hoses of all types. Heavy-duty conveyor belting. Oil platform steelwork assemblies. A wide variety of rubber, plastic and engineering components.

We're confident we've got the right mix to carry on growing: sales to vital industries and worldwide manufacture and distribution. Above all an operating philosophy that actively encourages growth.



**BTR** stands for growth

BTR Limited, Silvertown House, Vincent Square, London SW1P 2PL

## Rates for loans to industry are cut

The maximum rate of interest relief grant and interest rates for loans under Section 7 of the Industry Act, 1972, have been reduced.

The Department of Industry said yesterday that the rate of interest relief grant available in those cases where it would be appropriate to allow the equivalent of an interest-free period on a department loan, but where firms obtain their finance from other sources, was being reduced from 10½ per cent to 10 per cent for each interest-free year.

The concessionary rate of interest on loans for employment-creating projects has been reduced from 7½ per cent to 7 per cent, and the broadly-commercial rate of interest on loans for modernization projects not providing additional employment has gone down from 10½ per cent to 10 per cent.

While Lord Nugent is perfectly entitled to his opinion, let us not overlook the fact that the National Water Council has no brief in the matter of freight operations, and is therefore commenting from outside the freight industry. While no one would dispute Lord Nugent's contention regarding the size of craft, there are many of us who would in fact argue that a significant increase in water freight is not only possible but desirable, as long as it can be proved commercially sensible to do so by the standards applied to state transport investment.

With regard to the concluding paragraph of your report, which states that "freight carrying could perhaps best be continued in association with the small regional ports or a specialist organization", I must confess myself puzzled.

Crude oil imports rise

Crude oil imports by the 24 member nations of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) increased 12.2 per cent last year to 1,237 million metric tonnes from 1,102 million in 1975. It was announced by the International Energy Agency.

The impact of increased demand on imports differed considerably in the three OECD areas. In north America, with production flagging, imports of crude oil and products rose 23.5 per cent. In Japan, the figure was 7.6 per cent up and in Europe 8.3 per cent.

Steel production up

Crude steel production in the 29 member countries of the International Iron and Steel Institute rose 1.2 per cent in October to 36,741,000 tonnes from 36,293,000 tonnes in September, but was down 4.9 per cent from 38,620,000 tonnes produced in October, 1976. The institute reported in the first 10 months of 1977, total crude steel output was 2.9 per cent down at 363,911,000 tonnes.

Japan's surplus talks

Japan and the United States still have a long way to go before finding a satisfactory solution to the problem. Japan's current account balance of payments surplus, official American sources said at the end of five days of bilateral talks in Tokyo.

## NTPC

### National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. (A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)

NEW DELHI (INDIA)

#### INVITATION TO BID FOR LOCOMOTIVE AND WAGON PACKAGES SINGRAULI SUPER THERMAL POWER PROJECT

Proposals are invited by the National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd., for the works mentioned herein, for Singrauli Super Thermal Power Project at Ranibari, District Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh, India.

The proposals shall be received at the address and on the dates mentioned herein upto 10.30 hrs. (IST) and opened on the same day at 11.00 hrs. (IST).

The Project is partly financed by credit from the International Development Association. Participation is limited to Bidders from member countries of International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and Switzerland. The equipments, materials and services proposed shall have their source of origin in member countries of IBRD and Switzerland.

S. No.	Scope of work	Cost of bid documents per set Rs. US\$	Dates between which bid documents will be available From To	Date set for opening of bids.
1.	Manufacture, furnishing and commissioning at site (including assembly works at site, if any) of 3 Nos. 1676 mm gauge Co-Co Diesel Electric Locomotives with automatic creep control, complete with accessories and spares. (Specification No. CC-12-006 B)	500 60	21st Nov. 1977	17th Jan. 1978 24th Jan. 1978
2.	Manufacture, furnishing, erection and commissioning at Site of 45 Nos. Bottom Discharge bogie hopper Wagons fitted with electro-pneumatically operated doors, and line side Equipment including a Control Console for triggering operation of the wagon door mechanism. (Specification No. CC-12-006 A)	500. 60	21st Nov. 1977	31st Jan. 1978 7th Feb. 1978

Bidders who wish to participate in the Locomotive Package should have designed, manufactured and furnished 500 or more locomotives of at least 1000 h.p., each of which are in successful operation for a period of not less than 5 years.

Bidders who wish to participate for Wagon Package should have designed, manufactured and furnished regularly, over the last 5 years a total of 2500 bogie wagons (8 wheelers) or 5000 four-wheeled wagons or a combination of equivalent number, so furnished must have been in successful operation for a period of not less than 3 years. The Bidder and/or his sub-contractor shall in addition have designed, manufactured, furnished and erected electro-pneumatically operated door mechanism with associated Line Side Equipment for at least 100 wagons and which are in successful operation for a period of 3 years.

The Bidders will be required to furnish a Bid Guarantee and Contract Performance Guarantee for amounts of 2% and 10% respectively.

The Bidding documents can be had from the address given below on payment of the cost of bid documents for respective items either by certified cheque or by crossed demand draft payable to National Thermal Power Corporation Limited, at New Delhi.

Contract Services  
National Thermal Power Corporation Limited  
11th Floor, Ashoka Estate,  
24, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110 001 (India)  
Telex: ND 2266

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Waterways invaluable arm of transport

From the Chairman of the National Waterways Transport Association

Sir, I refer to your article of November 9. "Region will carry not only the canals but

As far as the involvement of small regional ports" is concerned one of the prime advantages of inland waterways is that they allow sea-going vessels or ship-transported barges to penetrate deep into inland industrial areas, linking them directly with overseas markets. In particular those of the EEC.

It is worth remembering that virtually all movement of freight on waterways in this country is already performed by specialist private companies. As regards a "specialist organization", one already exists (the British Waterways Board) which the Government currently proposes to break up and merge with Lord Nugent's water industry.

Every major social improvement is affected by the cost of construction, whether it be in the field of housing, hospital improvement, nursery education, old people's homes, prison reform, and so forth.

Yet there is abundant evidence from past experience that building by employees directly employed by public authorities is the most expensive form of construction, and nationalization of the construction industry could serve only to increase costs, reduce quality of work would be improved.

Private consulting architects must be forgiven if they believe that not only is the Monopolies Commission a blunt political tool, but its report forms part of the larger political policy directed at the building industry.

Yours faithfully,

W. CORBISHEY,  
National Federation of Building Trades Employers  
2 Conyngham Road  
Victoria Park, Manchester.

November 4

The case against nationalization of building industry

From Mr W. Corbishey, Sir, Probably the most important resolution to be passed by the Labour Party conference was that which has been most noticeably ignored by the media—the nationalization of the building industry.

A major factor in the cost of living is the cost of building, affecting as it does such large expenses as mortgages, rent and rates, the cost of production and exchange is also affected by the cost of building.

Yet there is no cost of building since construction represents 50 per cent of the nation's capital investment. Yet the Labour Party makes no effort to justify the nationalisation of the construction industry on the grounds of cost saving, it's only possible justification is

Yours faithfully,

W. CORBISHEY,</

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## BOC International prepares to build its Airco stake

It has been widely assumed for some time that, if only the objections of the United States Federal Trade Commission could be overcome, BOC International would seek to lift its stake in Airco. The FTC finally withdrew its case in September and BOC has wasted no time in opening talks with Airco. Indeed, even before the FTC withdrawal, BOC had prepared the ground with a £40m rights issue, which can now be seen as a move to beef up its equity as a prelude to taking on board the necessary borrowings to finance the purchase of an enlarged stake.

Admittedly BOC's spending has been rising and in the year just ended will probably have topped £70m compared to £45m the year before. But profits should have been around £83m so internal cash flow should broadly cover new investment, and the balance sheet at the end of June was, in any case, sound enough with shareholders' funds of £278m against net debt of £174m. In addition BOC has £4m of deferred tax, most of which will presumably be transferred in due course to reserves.

Much depends, of course, on how much more of Airco BOC wants to buy. It will clearly want control so that it can consolidate Airco fully. But BOC has been happy to leave big minorities outstanding elsewhere in the world (Australia and South Africa, for example), and there is a powerful case for doing the same in Airco's case, not least being that it will help with local financing. If the aim was to take the stake up from 34 per cent to, say, 55-60 per cent it might cost between \$80m and \$100m, presumably financed through direct dollar borrowing like the original stake, which could be comfortably accommodated within the balance sheet.

There can be little argument over the logic of BOC's move. Until it bought the initial stake in Airco in early 1974 its worldwide coverage had been almost complete except for the United States. Taking on the big three, Union Carbide, Air Products and Airco would have been suicide, so it has made good sense to move directly into Airco as a way into the world's biggest single market.

### 'Monetary forces'

### An aid to investment?

Do you pride yourself on having a good "market nose"? If you do, beware. That at least is the advice of brokers W. Greenwell, made on the assumption that, whether realise it or not, your "nose" generally works by making an assessment of "natural monetary forces". In other words, when the supply of money exceeds demand, you know that the market wants to go up, and vice versa.

The trouble with this, the brokers argue in a look at investment management technique (in their November Monetary Bulletin), is that natural monetary forces may no longer provide the best scent once a central bank starts attempting short-term control of the money supply. The same consideration, they add, probably applies to those who rely heavily on forecasting corporate profits to arrive at their investment strategy.

Why should this be so? Quite simply, Greenwell suggests, because central bank intervention to correct excessive monetary deviations produces "induced monetary forces". By that the brokers mean that the authorities now attempt to influence the monetary trend some time before it has moved to the extreme point in its natural cycle.

The result of this is that monetary forces may well come into conflict with other expectations" rather earlier in a market trend than has been in the case in the past - though one could, of course, argue here that in intervening in the natural monetary cycle the authorities are also affecting these expectations by tending to smoothen the underlying business cycle itself.

The conclusion Greenwell draws from this is that substantial market movements may become less common but that medium-sized movements, particularly if the setting of monetary targets leads to greater interest rate volatility, will become more frequent.

## Business Diary: Long's shot • Ghana's ginger group

Brian Long, 45, whose appointment as deputy managing director of Honeywell Information Systems, Brentford, was announced yesterday, is expected to drop the "deputy" from his title some time next year, when Russ Henderson, the present managing director, returns to the United States.

When this happens, Long will become the first non-American to run the Minneapolis company's computer operations in the United Kingdom (though Ralph Price has been Honeywell's chairman, embracing both controls and computers, since 1971).

Born and educated in Bradford, Long joined the local area board from school, qualified as a chartered secretary and, convinced that data-processing was the coming thing,

joined British Tabulators as a trainee in 1955.

"British Tab used to call their salesmen investigators", he recalls yesterday. "I was a systems man."

He moved over from systems into management. British Tab was absorbed in 1959 into ICI (which at the time became ICL) and in 1965 Long was head-hunted into Honeywell - which at that time had been in the computer business in Britain for only a couple of years.

After working his way up the marketing route, Long now takes over responsibility for all the company's computer hardware business.

Sir Richard March, no stranger to the vicissitudes of political life, may find his impending December appointment as chairman of Allied International somewhat short-lived. Indeed, as yesterday he was overheard to remark that he might be in the chair for only "a couple of days".

The problem is that allied may be the subject of a takeover bid from its three principal shareholders, which have 45 per cent of the equity - Commercial Union Assurance, Oricon Bank and London Trust - and from the National Enterprise Board.

Sir Richard's prospects would not be unusual at Allied, however. As the outgoing chairman, William Spencer, remarked yesterday,

Sherry Apittee's line is mixing drinks, but she is no barmaid. She is the chief technologist of the distillery division of the Ghana Industrial and Holding Corporation.

Miss Apittee (right) has been learning how to make Stone's Green Ginger Wine at the Matthew Clark group's Finsbury Distillery in the City.

The distiller had signed a deal with the Ghanaian government under which Stone's base wine - made mostly from dried Cypress grapes - will be exported to Accra. There, under Miss Apittee's supervision, it will be gingered up with local sugar and spice.

If all goes well, the Ghanians may export some of the finished article to other West African states. They could even make the lot under licence one day as they are already experimenting with Indian and South American grapes to see if they can produce wines.

How the wine will be drunk in Ghana, she says, remains to be seen. Here, it is usually drunk neat or in Scotch. It

years is a long time to be on the board of this company.

Not one question was asked, and no information was gratuitously offered, about a possible bid, although this had seemed likely since Friday evening.

However, one lone stock shareholder, Gerald Deakin, has

secured from the company's financial advisers, Kleinwort Benson, a promise to consider extending the loan stock conversion date from Sunday, given all the uncertainty surrounding the company.

The only news to be gleaned came after the meeting, when



long-winded names: spurred on by readers' previous suggestions, W. J. Sivewright of Westbury-on-Trym remembers serving on the Regional Advisory Sub-Committee for Further Education for the South-West. Peter Churchill, of London, speaks up for Dickinsions when he reminds us of Nicholas Nickleby, wherein may be found the United Metropolitan Improved Hot Muffin and Crumpet Baking Company Limited.

Sir Richard let slip that the company was awaiting an announcement from Riyadh that it had won a new hospital contract.

■ Manuel de Prado, chairman and executive president of the Spanish national airline Iberia, has been elected to become the president of the International Air Transport Association for the second year running.

This is unusual as the top man of the 109 airlines in the association generally pass around this chore each year.

De Prado is reckoned to have done a good job for IATA at a time when it needs all the friends that it can get, and his fellow airline chairmen obviously hope that he will go on doing it as the going becomes even tougher during the next 12 months.

IATA's fare-fixing is under attack from all sides - so much so that the chairmen have just decided that there might be a case for allowing in some competition after all.

De Prado's rise to airline prominence is all the more remarkable when it is considered that he came into the business only in March last year. He joined Iberia after a career in private business, mainly in the steel, vehicle and telecommunications industries.

Born in 1931, he studied law and business administration in Madrid and Salamanca and he speaks fluent English.

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## FINANCIAL NEWS

## Kiwi polishes up its 1977 results

Kiwi International, the Australian polo group has announced an operating profit of \$A22.9m (about £1.8m) on sales of \$A56.52m for the year ended August 31. This compares with \$A1.8m on sales of \$A45m for the year before.

The group said the improving sales and profit trend during 1976 continued in the latest year as a result of improved record profits.

Trading conditions in Australia, it says, have continued to be difficult but all operations contributed to the good results except for the United Kingdom, where for a period, currency and exchange fluctuations affected adversely the cost of inter-company stock movements.

## Reuter.

## Woolworth hopes

Mr Edward Gibbons, chairman of F. W. Woolworth says the store chain "expects a good fourth quarter". The group reported third quarter earnings to October 31 of 40 cents a share against 62 cents a year ago. For the nine months the company had a net income of \$2.7m (about £1.6m) compared with \$4.7m a year earlier. The earnings include the company's 52.7 per cent equity in the earnings of F. W. Woolworth of Great Britain.

British Woolworth has reported a third quarter loss equivalent to \$4.3m. Its nine-months profit fell to the equivalent of \$4.2m from \$10.2m in the year before. Woolworth said this was the result of foreign exchange transactions.

Woolworth said its share in results of the British unit for the third quarter was a loss of \$2.2m against a profit of \$3.5m a year ago.

## Olivetti transfer

Ing. C. Olivetti and C.S.P.A. the Italy-based electronic and office equipment group and SCM Corporation, announce an agreement by which the Olivetti group will sell to an SCM subsidiary for an undisclosed amount of cash, the Olivetti factory in Glasgow. SCM also acquires the right to manufacture and sell the single element portable typewriter made in Glasgow by Olivetti with typewriters made at the factory. Under terms of the transaction SCM will continue operation of the Glasgow plant where the typewriters, the Lexikon 82 and 83 are manufactured.

The Queen's Guard

The State Government Insurance Office of Queensland has decided to invest \$A28m (about £17.5m) in a special issue of Amoco Australia shares, giving it 20 per cent of the unlisted company's issued share capital. Amoco managing director, Mr C. F. Ullmann said, he said also that profit this year is expected to exceed the 7.6m earned in 1976.

## Sime Darby Holdings

Sime Darby Holdings is still weighing up the advantages and disadvantages of transferring its domicile to Malaysia from the United Kingdom, the chairman, Mr Tan Siew Sin told the annual meeting. Answering questions he said that the board

## Thomas Locker up 25pc with better to come

The second half year at Thomas Locker, the screening and filtration engineer, should be better than the first. If so pre-tax profits for the year should be a record at about £2.2m compared with last year's £2.0m. Pre-tax profits in the six months to September 30, rose by 25 per cent to £1.1m and orders are reasonable.

## Morgan and Narodny open Moscow office

Morgan Grenfell, Moscow Narodny Bank, and Bank of Scotland have opened a joint representative office in Moscow. The office will be managed by Mr Oleg Lapushkin who has been Moscow Narodny's representative in Moscow for some time. The joint venture is designed to bring together Morgan Grenfell's experience in financing the Anglo-Soviet trade and the experience of Morgan and Bank of Scotland in the arrangement and provision of ECGD-backed loans and major project finance.

## Miners drink their way to a pension

Miners in the Midlands have a new incentive to drink their favourite beer in the future. From now on every time they down a pint of Mansfield bitter, they will be securing their pensions for full year as well.

This is good news as pre-tax profits were £14.9m for the year to June 25, against £32.000 for 1976. Mr Gould says that if the present rise in sales continues, he is sure that the group will recover its lost ground.

## Clark's US shoe deal

C. & J. Clark, a privately owned group which includes the Ravel Shoe chain and the Hanover Shoe Inc., have announced that they have reached agreement for Clark to buy all of Hanover's assets for about \$26m.

Hanover Shoe is an American company engaged in the making and retailing of shoes. Hanover's turnover has increased from \$25m in 1967 to \$60m in 1976. In 1976 pre tax profits were \$6.1m and net worth \$28.4m. In the first nine months of 1977 pre tax profits were \$2.4m compared with \$3.3m in 1976.

The deal is expected to be completed by the end of 1977.

C. & J. Clark have wished to increase their base in the United States of America for some time and believe that the proposed buy will fulfil that policy. The C. & J. Clark subsidiary expects to employ members of Hanover's present management and the about 2,500 other employees of Hanover and its wholly owned subsidiary Sheppard & Myers.

## International

had the possibility of declaring a scrip issue currently under review.

## Danish Phone

The 25m Swiss franc (about £6m) 4% per cent 15-year loan being floated in Zurich here by the Municipal Telephone Company of Funen, Denmark, has been priced at 99 per cent of the loan prospectus states.

## Brambles debenture

Brambles Industries of Australia says its \$A10m (about £5.25m) debenture issue received applications exceeding \$A15m and it has accepted oversubscriptions for \$A5m as proposed in mid-October. Issues on offer were: 11 per cent for three years, 11.25 per cent six years, 11.5 per cent 10 years and 11.75 per cent 15 years, all at par.

## ACEC optimistic

Ateliers de Constructions Electriques de Charleroi SA of Belgium say its net first-half 1977 loss increased to

Financial news starts on page 32

7.43m francs (about £1m) from a loss of 4.4m francs in the same 1976 period. Second-half results will be better than the first and the company expects to make a profit for the full year, although lower than the 12.9m franc profit of the full 1976.

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